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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Sir Bartle Frere's happy idea of a national memorial to Lord Milner is to take the form, approved by Lord Milner himself, of a signed address. Signatures will be subscribed to the simple testimony "We the undersigned desire to place on record our high appreciation of the services rendered by Lord Milner in Africa to the Crown and Empire . . ." For reasons easy to grasp it is not proposed to obtain signatures from the Colonies. The offence has been committed in the home-country, and it is we that stay at home who must make what reparation we can. It is pleasant to know that many, and not undistinguished, Liberals are supporting Sir Bartle Frere's movement. Honour to them; it is very easy for Conservatives to sign the memorial—it suits them to do it in every way—but for a Liberal it means some measure of sacrifice. For it is the innuendo of the Government, willing to hurt and yet afraid to strike, that has made necessary a formal recognition of Lord Milner's merits—which but a week or two ago would have seemed an impertinence. If the Government had not stepped in, who would have cared what was proposed or was not proposed by Mr. Byles?

Lord Elgin's intervention in Natal does not appear in any better light after the priggish and pompous speech of his Under-Secretary. The reference to colonists in the enjoyment of "enormous liberties" perhaps rather lightheartedly conferred, may be taken as an indication of the unfortunate spirit in which the Government approached this delicate matter. It is not the right of the Imperial Government to interfere, but the method adopted which is in question. Lord Elgin complains that he was kept in ignorance of the facts by the Governor. But on Mr. Churchill's own showing the Colonial Office knew on the 28th that the death sentence had been passed. As the executions were not to take place till the 30th, Lord Elgin had

ample time to communicate with the Governor and receive his reply on the 29th. If that reply was unsatisfactory he might have intervened. That the state of native unrest has not been exaggerated is proved by the raid successfully carried out by the deposed chief Bambaata and the punishment he has inflicted on the forces sent to deal with him. If they do not promptly assert the authority of the Government, further complications, it is to be feared, are inevitable. Bambaata's defiance will go far to neutralise the effect of the executions at Richmond.

It might possibly have happened that what the political authorities were not prepared to do might have been accomplished quietly by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. A Zulu appeared before the court on an application for leave to appeal against the sentences passed on the Natal natives. If that had been granted, the executions would have been stayed pending the survey of the proceedings at Whitehall. But the court dismissed the application. The Judicial Committee is the one court in the empire which can review criminal trials, but it only deals with those in the colonies. It exercises its power very rarely however. One of the last cases was that of Deeming, the Australian murderer, who appealed for alleged irregularities in his trial; but the court refused to interfere, as it has done in the Natal case.

Mr. Wyndham certainly made the best speech in the debate on the Colonial vote. Indeed ever since the Unionists went into opposition Mr. Wyndham has been doing splendid service for his party in the Commons. In Homeric language this period of Parliament might almost be described as Mr. Wyndham's aristeia. No doubt Mr. Churchill would claim the first place. His part has certainly been prominent; but would all even of his own party apply to it the Homeric description? Mr. Wyndham did succeed in bringing Mr. Churchill to the point on Thursday, and in other ways there was some improvement in Mr. Churchill's tone. He even mentioned Lord Elgin once or twice, and adopted a very piano tone in his allusion to the Colonial governments. There is something amusing in his complacency on the general acceptance of responsible government for the

Transvaal, the only explanation being that the colonials, as Unionists here, are ready to take anything that will free the colonies from the meddling of the present Government. Mr. Churchill assures the world that the Government are sensible of the delicate position of the British settlers in the Orange River Colony, and have no desire to subordinate Briton to Boer in the Transvaal. Before we accept the assurance let us see what they do.

In the heat of debate Mr. Arnold-Forster paid an unobserved compliment to the Government. When Mr. Churchill modestly tried to dissociate himself from the charge of approval of the Natal executions, Mr. Forster declared "You shall not put us off in this way: if you had not approved you would not have sanctioned the executions".

Lord Randolph Churchill once inveighed irritably against chatty fellow travellers on board ship who would come and talk to him immediately after a meal, interrupting him in his "calmly digestive mood". The Prime Minister has clearly no such weakness. He seems to be one of those annoying people who boast they "do not know what indigestion means". During the debate on reform in procedure this week he declared that it had never hurt his digestion to jump up from his chop when the division bell started ringing and return to it later. It is good to feel we have a Prime Minister who has nothing of the sybarite about him. He can rough it, take his repose and food in morsels and thrive on it. As to the repose, Lord Helmsley got in a clever personality in Thursday's debate on the colonial vote. He likened Mr. Churchill to "a messenger of the gods—Mercury to Jupiter who nods on Olympus—and sometimes on the Treasury Bench". Dozing or appearing to doze on the Treasury Bench however is quite orthodox in a leader of the House. The Prime Minister has a precedent in Palmerston and others.

Captain Kincaid Smith in the House and Mr. D. A. Thomas in the "Times" have during the week given the Government a little of their mind. The question has constantly been discussed, When is a member of a party justified in an act or attitude of independence? The party whips would roundly declare, Never. Of course there would soon be an end of party discipline, and so of party government as we know it to-day, if free-lancing on the side in office were to become general. But occasional freaks such as that of Mr. D. A. Thomas this week are very excusable when you are secure of a huge majority of two hundred or more. Mr. Thomas attributes all the vacillation of his leader to the sinister influence of the Liberal Imperialist wing in the Cabinet. Evidently he had much rather the Prime Minister dealt with the good sound firm of D. A. Thomas and Co. Mr. Thomas' way of independence may not be so heroic as Captain Smith's, but it is astute. He does not get growls and frowns from colleagues around him, and his protest will if anything rather please the Radical press.

A week ago the Moorish Conference at Algieras completed its labours and to-day or on Monday the Acte Général will be ready for signature. No attempt is made in any direction to disguise the relief with which Europe hailed the delegates' success. Germany and France both seem to be pleased, though neither is quite satisfied and both are somewhat sceptical of the finality of the arrangement. It may be as one French writer puts it, "la Conférence est finie, mais la question marocaine commence". For the moment at any rate Germany has surrendered her hopes, if she ever entertained them, of acquiring a foothold in Morocco. But she has rendered Europe some service in compelling France to agree for all time to the open door and equal opportunities. France will only control the police of the ports in conjunction with Spain, and her special claims have been recognised without jeopardising the immediate and prospective rights of others.

After all the talk of the terrorism held over the electors by the Russian Government it is now known that in St. Petersburg itself, the stronghold of the

bureaucrats, the Government candidates have been hopelessly defeated. The Constitutional Democrats have carried every seat. Throughout the country it appears there will be the like victory for the moderate constitutional party. In their hands the Duma will take that serious part in the government which the Tsar has all along intended it should take. It is the middle term between revolution and reaction; and the electors have accepted it in the appropriately moderate spirit. Apparently the rural districts are sending representatives of less democratic principles.

Prince Bülow was seized with a fainting fit in the Reichstag on Thursday shortly after delivering an able and reassuring speech on the Algieras Conference. It would be unfortunate for Germany and for Europe if the Chancellor's illness should take a turn which compelled his retirement from public life. On the whole his policy has certainly made for peace and moderation. He has known how to combine a thorough appreciation of German needs and opportunities with a reasonable regard for international susceptibilities, and we hope it will be long before the Emperor is called upon to appoint a successor. Thursday's admirable statement in the Reichstag was entirely in keeping with several others delivered by Prince Bülow in the last year or two. He put the case for intervention in Morocco in a phrase when he said that it was intended to show that the German Empire could not be treated as a *quantité négligeable*. His recognition of the superior claims of both France and Spain was ample, and its spirit will find an echo in both countries.

The revenue returns seem to show that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will enjoy a surplus of some three and a half millions. We see it remarked in some quarters that he has "to thank" Mr. Austen Chamberlain for this. A little party capital must be made now and then; every effective party journal and party leader tries to make it; but this theory of gratitude is surely rather extravagant. Mr. Austen Chamberlain had scarcely Mr. Asquith's interests at heart when he administered his office. We cannot picture him hoarding his millions on behalf of Mr. Asquith at the very time Mr. Asquith was stumping the country against Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's policy. As to the spending of this surplus there are already many predictions. Some of it may go towards lessening the National Debt.

This use of his surplus by a Chancellor of the Exchequer is to-day regarded with little favour by the public. Only experts in finance have the least respect for such a good and truly national policy. The ordinary man, educated or uneducated, thinks it quite uncalled-for to trouble about sinking fund or national debt. Yet in an age when national finance was almost in its babyhood in England politicians of all grades took exactly the opposite view; they were all for lessening the debt. This was so in Walpole's day, and indeed before then. Broderick, quite a rank and file politician of the eighteenth century, made himself almost famous by his statement that we had no right to call ourself a nation so long as we had a debt of many millions. To-day the last thing which we trouble about is our National Debt.

When the Prime Minister stated that he would vote for Mr. Hudson's Trade Disputes Bill, and give up his own, he did not know that according to high legal authority the Bill would leave trade unions exactly as they are at present and would not relieve them in the least. This is an extraordinary specimen of drafting. Who drew the Bill, and had the unions legal advice? But Sir Lawson Walton seems not to have known it either, for he argued as if the Bill completely effected the intention of making the unions irresponsible. The Liberal papers that do not like the Government's climb down are using this blunder to show that the Government's Bill is the better one after all. They affect to think that it carries out the same intention, and hint that it is better to wrap up this intention in its elaborate provisions as to agency. But the trade unions know better, and they are honest. They can easily do what they want, though they have

blundered in the first attempt. There will still remain all the difference in the world between their intention and the Government's as expressed by Sir J. Lawson Walton.

And now Mr. Gladstone not content with wrecking the Aliens Act seems to be wanting to wreck his own Workmen's Compensation Bill. The Government is bringing in Bills on which it has no fixed opinions and it wants the House to find them for it. Mr. Gladstone's zeal is so tepid that he is prepared to give up the most useful clauses in the Bill if he is pressed—and he will leave it to the House. These are the provisions for including diseases such as lead poisoning, which are not strictly speaking accidents, but which, for many reasons, ought to be included in a Compensation Bill. And Mr. Gladstone "has no strong feeling" about dropping the clauses relating to old men. One would think he ought to have; old men have suffered by dismissal because employers objected to them, supposing them to be more liable to accidents. To meet their case the Bill provides for a lower scale of compensation. But the trade unions do not like the proposal and this accounts for Mr. Gladstone's want of strong feeling. It is not surprising that even the Government's own newspapers are sneering at it for its infirmity of purpose, and, as Mr. Haldane would say, its lack of lucidity in thinking.

We are glad to see that a crowded and demonstrative meeting was held this week in the Shoreditch Town Hall to protest against Mr. Gladstone's attempt to frustrate the Aliens Act. It is very plain that the Home Secretary's plot has already provoked very deep resentment amongst the population who felt the pressure of the alien encroachment. This meeting must be followed up by others without delay. Let the Government see that the undermining of the Act is not popular and they may be trusted to make the Home Secretary shape his course very differently. Mr. Gladstone's plan is plain enough: to give such instructions to the Immigration Boards that they practically can refuse admission to none: then go to the House and say the Act is inoperative: no aliens are kept out: experience shows it was not wanted; then repeal it. This little plot Unionists must be careful to expose.

Mr. Horatio Bottomley deserved the snub he got from the refusal of the House of Commons to let him introduce his Betting Bill. It may not be the only time this has been done, but it is a very rare thing; and for Liberals to treat a Liberal so is certainly severe. Mr. Bottomley passes for a clever man, but he was stupid to suppose that anyone wants street betting; not even bookmakers on his terms, high licences and severe restrictions. They would prefer things as they are, and take the risks. He touched the labour members on a tender place. They are not the sort of working-men who are infatuated with betting. They hate the bookmaker and resent as an insult Mr. Bottomley's supposition that it is natural for working-men to want to bet. The better-class workmen are not the bookmakers' clients. In their opinion company promoters and bookmakers are about equally venal.

The great advantage of being borne into office by a "moral upheaval" is that the virtuous beneficiaries can disregard the ordinary rules of public morality. Mr. Bryce has lost little time in utilising his knowledge of the American constitution for the introduction of the spoils system into Ireland. Five Assistant Land Commissioners, against whose competence and probity nothing has been officially alleged, have been removed on the expiration of their "temporary" appointments, to make room for gentlemen whose qualifications for performing difficult duties requiring expert knowledge of agriculture are to be found (according to the "Daily Chronicle") in the fact that four are Nationalists and one a Presbyterian.

The temporary character of these posts has before now seriously impaired the efficiency of the Land Commission. But Mr. Bryce's action simply means that any Assistant Commissioner whose valuation of rents does not please the local Nationalist M.P. is liable to be dismissed. It is absurd to pretend that the Land

Commission in reducing Irish rents by over forty per cent. has shown excessive tenderness to the landlords, and it is notorious in Ireland that commissioners drawn from the landlord class have been almost unduly anxious to avoid the appearance of favouring their own order. Something might have been said for the appointment of expert tenant farmers, but the competent tenant farmer in Ireland prefers farming his own land to fixing rent on other people's.

The usual transparent insincerity marks the usual party comment on the bye election at Leicester. One set of election experts is profoundly impressed by the great significance in the decrease of the Liberal majority by several thousand and is ready to prove that the people have already found the Government out, &c. &c.; the other can show that the figures are quite misleading, and that in reality Leicester and labour too are as Liberal as ever. The truth seems to be that the labour party was attending to other matters, and not being particularly favourable or unfavourable to Mr. Thomasson, did not trouble to vote either way: there is no special significance about the election beyond this. Mr. Thomasson is a good type of Liberal. He is certainly not one of the "third-class journalists" whom Lord St. Alwyn had in his mind the other evening when speaking of the decadence of M.P.'s that would result from payment of members. He conducts—and supports—a daily paper of high principle and with a literary flavour.

The aftermath of the General Election is unhappily being gathered in too many constituencies. It consists of all "the spites and the follies" of heady partisanship. In one place an offended voter withdraws his subscription and his sons from the local cricket club because the captain of the club worked for the candidate on the other side. This is a case which came to our notice the other day, and there are many other absurd cases of the kind. There is not much to choose between parties in this: each side has its blunderheads who love to use their blunderbusses. The absurd error into which these people fall is not that of taking party politics too seriously: rather they fail because they do not take other and everyday departments of life seriously enough. Imagine anybody changing his otherwise excellent fishmonger because he is not a good Tory or not a good Liberal as the case may be—palate sacrificed to party passion! Yet this has actually been done by strange and wonderful enthusiasts.

On Wednesday and Thursday a court of inquiry, consisting for the main part of General Officers, was engaged at Aldershot in gathering information as to another "ragging" case, in the course of which the question of whether a young Guardsman did or did not wash himself was exhaustively entered into. There can be no question that the widespread publication of such repellent matter will do the army harm. But judging from the Kinloch case, three years ago, Mr. Haldane was perhaps right in the course he pursued. In the Kinloch case all details were eventually made public during the course of the numerous debates which took place on the subject in the two Houses. It is better then that the case should come out now as a whole, and this was also the desire of the individuals concerned, though this is by no means the most important point. An unusually authoritative court of inquiry was assembled; but as their functions were merely to collect evidence, and not judicial, comment for the present must be reserved.

The facts are briefly these. The Army Council last October issued a stringent order against "ragging". In the following March the medical officer reports that a young probationary officer in the 1st Scots Guards is suffering from a disease contracted through dirt, and that his person is filthy. The commanding officer, on the matter being reported to him, said "It is not a crime, and the only way you can treat it really is by means of his young brother subalterns". The adjutant conveyed these views to the latter, qualifying them, however, by adding that there was to be "no corporal punishment or pump". Nevertheless, as has happened before in greater matters, a big man's hasty utterances

have been taken in too great earnest, although he insists manfully on taking all blame on himself. The young officer was brought before a mock court-martial, ordered to undress, put in a bath, smeared over with motor oil, Keating's powder and jam, eventually proceeding to a neighbouring hotel. His soldier servant's evidence contradicted the doctor's pronouncement on the uncleanness of Lieutenant Clark-Kennedy. But cleared of all subsidiary matter, the real point is the disobedience of the orders of the Army Council.

At Courrières thirteen emerged from what was believed to be an impassable gallery on Friday week—a double blow to superstition as regards both number and day—and on Wednesday yet another starving and emaciated prisoner found his way out. Local passions have naturally been seriously inflamed by these events. Searching investigation into the whole circumstances both before and after the explosion is now being made and if negligence is proved against the companies the Government will probably cancel their concessions—a penalty which fortunately they have the power to inflict in France—whilst if the engineers cannot show that they did all that was humanly possible in the way of rescue they will be tried for manslaughter.

Whatever facts may be brought out by the official and judicial inquiries, the revelations of the week have added materially to the chaos now reigning in the mining districts and strengthened the resolution of the strikers. The men are closing up their ranks, the rival unions have composed their differences and the Government are bringing a certain amount of pressure to bear on the delegation of the companies to concede the men's demands. A few days ago the president of the delegation refused point-blank to confer with the strikers' representatives, but when the Government proposed a basis on which the men might return to work several companies agreed, and in the course of a week there is reason to hope the conflict will be at an end. Public sympathy is emphatically with the miners.

The City Corporation decided on Thursday that the new Central Criminal Court, the new Old Bailey as it is being popularly called, is not yet ready for the formal ceremony of opening by the King. It was certainly surprising to hear that in the present state of the buildings the ceremony had been fixed for May; and there was an air of absurdity about it. Some people also hinted that there was a sort of conspiracy to anticipate events with an eye to the distribution of hoped-for honours. All this looked rather suspicious: there was the further consideration that the opening of partially completed buildings would involve a good deal of expense in temporary preparations which would be thrown away. The Corporation has taken all these considerations into account; and will invite the King to allow the ceremony to take place later.

It is now clearly proved that Mrs. Wood was mistaken in her identification of the woman who committed suicide at a Pimlico hotel as her sister Mrs. Cushing. There can be no doubt of it, for the ladies have met in Paris with mutual recognition and they are hardly likely to be both mistaken as to each other. There is still doubt as to who the dead woman was; but probably she was a Mrs. Darvall whose husband was formerly an hotel-keeper at Brighton and from whom she was living apart. The supposed identification of Mrs. Cushing should be an additional lesson in the uncertainties connected with identification whether of the dead or the living. The remarkable fact was that Mrs. Wood was misled by a peculiarity in the dead woman's fingers which she supposed was the same as Mrs. Cushing's fingers had. Mrs. Wood is now surprised that she could have made the mistake; but agitation and prepossession account mostly for misidentification.

The president of the C.U.B.C., following the evil example of cricket captains, has had the ill taste to communicate to a newspaper, the "Globe", his view of his crew's prospect for the race. It is a pity he had not the discretion of the Oxford president, who very rightly refused to be "drawn" by an officious pressman. The snub was well deserved.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COLONIES.

ONE could easily imagine an honest Liberal being in doubt at this moment whether more to regret that the old Liberal policy of cutting the colonies adrift, or, to put it more delicately, letting them go with a blessing, was ever attempted or that it was not carried through to the end. If there were no British colonies there would be no colonial difficulties to worry a Liberal Government; there would be no need of a colonial policy, and above all there would be no need for a Colonial Under-Secretary. And if there were no colonies there could hardly be an empire; for the anomaly of holding India by force after we had let the colonies go would be too glaring for Liberal logic. And without the embarrassment of any external possessions to speak of the Liberal party might reign for ever and ever over a country that moved round eternally in a parochial eddy. It is difficult to believe that the Liberal statesmen who incubated the policy Lord Thring drafted in a Bill had not in mind the fortunes of Liberalism rather more than the fortunes of England. Be the reason what it may, the plain fact stands, and Liberals will not deny it, that nearly all the troubles of their party since the time of Palmerston have sprung from foreign and colonial policy. It was far more the imperial than the locally Irish aspect of Home Rule that made it a rock of offence to the British people, on which the Liberal party was shivered. It is impossible to deny that from the point of view of their party's prosperity the Liberal fathers showed remarkable foresight in desiring to eliminate the empire. On the other hand, if the policy of cutting the painter was not to be carried out, it was disastrous for the Liberal party that it was ever thought of at all. A Liberal nowadays can hardly help feeling that the colonial troubles now crowding so thick upon him are the nemesis of his forbears' attempts to abandon the colonies. There have been wicked parents who have tried to lose their children; they are seldom comfortable when their children find them again later in life: there is generally an unhappy atmosphere of suspicion between parent and child in such a case. Nor is this suspicion easily or wholly removed even by sincere repentance on the parent's part. One may sympathise a little with a Liberal, who is an imperialist and cares for the colonies, in his pain at finding the colonies shy of taking him to their heart and doubtful of the depth of his imperialism. He is suffering partly for the sins of his fathers and so far his case is a hard one. But he suffers far more for the sins of his brethren, and while he tolerates them and makes no real effort to purge the party of the parochial spirit, he deserves the political discomfort in which he has to live.

Both wings of the Liberal party are aware that there is always a want of sympathy between a Liberal Government and the British population in parts of the empire beyond the United Kingdom. Mr. Churchill emphasised the converse of this fact the other day in the House of Commons. The "Westminster Gazette" made a significant and strange admission in a leading article a few days ago when it expressed its confidence that if a Unionist Colonial minister had done precisely what Lord Elgin did nothing would have been heard of it: the suggestion being that all this friction sprang from party and not public motives. It is obvious that the Natal population, like every other British colonial people, if they prefer one party here to another, prefer it only because they think it more sympathetic with their local interests or with imperial interests or with both. If therefore the Natal people could accept without demur, which we do not for one moment say they would, from a Unionist Government what from a Liberal Government excited apprehension and indignation, it can only point to the complete trust of the colonials in the good-will of Unionists and their distrust of Liberals. Thus does the "Westminster Gazette", representing as it does intelligent and moderate Liberalism, admit the unsatisfactory feeling between the colonies and a Liberal Government. It appears only the more striking when we consider that the democratic character of the colonies must predispose them to sympathy with Liberals at home rather than with Conservatives. We are very far from content there

should be this permanent estrangement between the colonies and the English party. We agree with Mr. Wyndham that "this suspicion is a misfortune". We do not care to gain the party advantage at the cost of weakness to the empire; and none can doubt that it is a serious imperial weakness that one party alone should be held trustworthy by the British population beyond the seas where imperial interests are concerned. It means that a Liberal ministry is incapable of making an effective imperial government; and therefore from time to time there must be periods when the common interests of the empire will be more or less in jeopardy. That must be, even with the best intentions on both sides, when there is imperfect sympathy between the Government here and the peoples beyond the seas. It is for this reason that we have always hoped that the Liberal imperialists might permeate and so control the Liberal party. The man who is a Liberal but also genuinely an imperialist, knowing and accepting all that it involves in the way of militarism and so forth, is a type singularly, we believe, in conformity with the average Englishman of the present day. That the Liberal imperialists are yet so few shows on the one hand how deep is the public distrust of the Liberal party in imperial matters, and on the other hand it must throw grave doubt on the reality of the Liberal imperialist group as a whole. They have had very much in their favour and yet they have steadily lost ground. They have three of their best men in the Cabinet, and that Cabinet is the most anti-imperial of any since Mr. Gladstone's Government of 1880. Instead of the Liberal imperialists leavening the Government, there is rather talk of the Government being purged of the Liberal imperialists.

It required little of the power of foresight to expect difficulties between a Cabinet headed by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and the colonies. But they have come sooner and thicker than most of us looked for. The whole British population in South Africa is in a state of nervous excitement, "suffering from political neuritis"; it has been insulted in the person of Lord Milner; Natal is resentful and indignant; the English in the Orange River Colony are in despair at the prospect of abandonment to the Dutch; and the British in the Transvaal are waiting, in an attitude of reserved defiance. The observer of public symptoms in the other colonies can see signs of sympathetic feeling there too. Australia is not unmoved by what is going on in South Africa. Canada is materially very prosperous at this moment and in business pre-occupation is less susceptible to political anxiety. But Canadians are aware that they have to do with an imperial Government whose first concern is to negative the fiscal policy the majority of Canadians favour. We are told by Liberals that we ought to help the Ministry by forbearance and gentleness to overcome the very real danger that lies in this state of veiled disaffection towards the imperial Government. This Government ought to be strong enough to do without any help from the Opposition. But the essential point is that we will not aggravate the difficulties of the Cabinet unless we think they are doing wrong, but when we do think they are we certainly shall do all in our power to hinder them. We shall certainly make it as difficult for them as we can to give responsible government to the Orange River Colony: it is urgently important that the English settlers should realise that not the whole people here are willing to put the Dutch in control of the colony. We shall make it as difficult for them as we can to put the Dutch in a political majority in the Transvaal by an arrangement of electoral machinery. Unionists object to their intervention in Natal, not on legal or technical grounds, nor for what the Colonial Minister actually did or asked for, but for the amazing indiscretion in the moment and manner of interfering. The Government showed no sense of proportion. It is not clear that they made any attempt so to expedite their decision as to involve no postponement in carrying out the sentence, if they intended it to be carried out. Apparently they could have had the information in time for them to review the evidence and decide without any postponement, and friction would have been saved. The safety of the white population is at stake, and this is not a time to make a great deal of formal correctness of

procedure. They could see that justice was done without giving an exhibition of pedantry, peculiarly irritating to a people in immediate fear of a calamity in whose shadow they perpetually live. Conceive their feelings when in this time of tension they are told by a young man, the mere talker in absolute safety at home, that their "enormous liberties and responsibilities were perhaps too light-heartedly confided" to them. If true, and it very possibly is true, that is an especial reason why they should not be reminded of it in their present painful position. The Government by the blundering of their intervention have weakened the already too small authority of the imperial power.

THE OUTCOME OF ALGECIRAS.

THE farce at Algeciras has dragged during the concluding act but it has reached the desired end and everyone pretends to be pleased. So perhaps it would be churlish to inquire whether the world is justified in believing that all parties have some ground for satisfaction. If we may accept *au pied de la lettre* the optimistic assertions made by M. Revoil to a representative of the "Temps" on Wednesday France retains everything "essential" to her. It is well that she should believe it, for it is highly undesirable that any party to the Conference, and especially the principal one, should go away with any feeling of soreness, but it would be difficult to prove by close reasoning that France finds herself, as the result of the Conference, in a position to put in force those claims in Morocco which two years ago under the Delcassé régime she undoubtedly did put forward as essential to her position in North Africa. The actual terms of her agreement with Spain have never been made known to the world though they had no doubt been fully laid before our own Foreign Office. The system of a mixed police service at the ports as it has finally emerged from the melting-pot of the Conference may therefore be not so very different from the scheme originally outlined by the two Governments. France has always recognised the peculiar rights of Spain in Morocco—indeed they could not be ignored—but how the arrangement will work out in practice is quite another matter. Previous experience in such situations bids us anticipate friction among subordinates even with the utmost goodwill between the principals. But it is something that henceforth some means are to be at hand to keep order in the ports and to free trade from brigandage. As the vast majority of foreigners reside at the ports they will be grateful that this relief at all events is to be afforded them. In the affair of the bank too France has nothing to complain of, but what effect the decision of the Conference may have on the internal condition of Morocco is a much more complicated matter. Literally and exactly the fringe of the main difficulty has alone been touched. The sovereignty of the Sultan, the independence of Fez and the position in the interior of the country seem to have been left out of account. It is well known that practically the whole country is in a state of anarchy. In one direction the Pretender, in another Raisuli, ranges unchecked. We learn from a telegram of 4 April that to the east of Fez the tribes have openly joined the Pretender while the Governor has fled to the capital. Hitherto the French Government has been hostile to the Pretender and his supporters allege that, had it not been for the embargo placed by France upon the importation of arms, he would long ago have upset the Sultan and occupied Fez. What will the attitude of France be now in this direction? and how far will her admitted right to protect and police her Algerian frontier allow her to interfere in the internal quarrels of Morocco? What too will be the respective standing of the French and German Ministers at Fez? It may well be that the Maghzen is disappointed with the results of German influence at the Conference but how far will that carry them in the direction of France so soon as they find there is any chance of fanning discord between the Powers and maintaining thereby their own freedom uncontrolled? We are entirely sceptical of any establishment of law and order in the interior as the outcome of the pourparlers of Algeciras. There never has been or can be any way but one of putting Morocco

into a condition approaching orderly government. It was for one Great Power with large forces at its command, acting ostensibly as the Sultan's mandatory, and carefully maintaining his authority in appearance, to take over the administration and at the same time to flood the country judiciously with its own subjects, doctors, merchants and teachers. This, no doubt, was the Delcassé policy, and, had its author been allowed to carry it out, it would have been in the end successful. As it is, we fail to see any promise of settled government in Morocco or any cessation of intrigues and annoyance at Fez. The essential point of all, the control of the centre of affairs, still lies outside any agreement reached at the Conference, and the French authorities may still have grave difficulties to meet before they find themselves established in the situation they claimed originally, if they ever do—which we doubt. We do not dispute the reasonable nature of the claims because that arises naturally and inevitably from their geographical status in the North of Africa. Morocco is a wedge driven in between the two solid masses of their Empire but they have accepted a principle which once accepted it is impossible to evade, the right of European interference in Moorish affairs. It may be readily admitted that in the course of the Congress French diplomacy has done something to rehabilitate itself, but nothing could enable it to get over the initial error of the Rouvier policy. No doubt M. Rouvier himself saw the mistake and reverted ultimately, so far as a changed situation would admit, to the policy whose author he had overthrown, but his great blunder could never be repaired. No doubt in the first place the greater blunder was that of the Chamber in declining to support the Delcassé policy long before Germany ever took the field. When M. Rouvier assumed the control of the Foreign Office he was undertaking a business to which he was entirely new, for after all the novice, however able, has much to learn before he can make the wheels of foreign policy run smoothly. When he thoroughly understood the position, he reverted so far as possible to the Delcassé position. But that was only feasible to a very limited extent. The principle of the Conference was accepted, and thereby the right of Europe to intervene was admitted, and we do not see how it can ever be evaded again. What happened then was that the whole of the European Powers took the place of France and a selected few with whom she had made certain private arrangements. Morocco henceforth is a field for the individual schemes and jealousies of any European States that choose to take a hand in the game.

It may be true that on the whole the results of the Conference are less distressing for France than they might have been, but as it would have been far better for her that it should never have taken place at all any congratulations she may receive will be tempered in her own mind, if not in that of her friends, by a certain amount of judicious reservation.

But after all the real interest of the Conference for the unbiased observer lies in its European results. It has shown at all events that there is a great deal of common sense and goodwill in the common stock and also that the profession of diplomacy even under modern conditions has a great deal to say for itself. So far as this country is concerned, we have no ground for quarrelling with the result. We have with perfect loyalty stood to our agreement with France, and if in the end we seem to have gained everything we desired while France has lost the main part of her own share, that is not due to any fault of ours. Spain too has been no less loyal and we may hope that by working together on the side of France something has been done to smooth over animosities too justly excited by our blatant partisanship during her war with the United States. Good results in a similar direction cannot fail to flow from the close accord with Russia into which we have been brought throughout these negotiations. It will be folly to expect too much but churlish not to admit the plain facts that confront us.

Of all the Powers Italy had the most delicate game to play. She has emerged with credit from a position of some difficulty, but it is not strange that leading German newspapers find some cause to grumble in her clearly inclining to the support of France rather than

of her own ally. But the gradual rapprochement of Italy and France is an admitted fact of the last few years, and it is clear that the Triple Alliance has been to some extent impaired by recent events. How far it would prove valid at all in the event of a war is a problem no one desires to see put to the proof, but which everyone speculates upon.

Germany perhaps gets out of the Conference quite as much as she expected. She has established the right of Europe to control the future of Morocco and the principle of the "open door". An interesting point arises out of this for our own consideration. Is our right to participate in this benefit limited by our agreement with France to thirty years, or do we share and share alike with the rest of Europe for all time? A judicious interrogatory might well be addressed to Sir Edward Grey on this subject.

THE NEW RULES OF PROCEDURE.

THE reform of its Rules of Procedure to which the Government has compelled the House of Commons to devote some of the golden hours of its first session is of a remarkably unheroic character. So far it consists of a series of modifications of the hours which were laid down for its sittings by Mr. Balfour in the latest revision of the Rules of the House. These alterations, in their more important features, have been left to the free decision of the House, and that decision has been avowedly determined by the selfish inclinations of individual members, and groups of members. This may be right enough; and no doubt it is a popular course to pursue in the House of Commons itself. It is interesting however to remember the objection made, not altogether without reason, against Mr. Balfour's scheme, that it was the child of Ministers, and officials, and the Whips, that it had not been referred to a Select Committee, and did not represent any general agreement amongst experienced and independent members. But notwithstanding this ground for House of Commons complaint, it is fair to remember that Mr. Balfour's scheme was introduced and carried by the authority of those responsible at the time for the conduct of business there, and with the primary and serious object of facilitating, and making more rational, the despatch of this business. With that object the hour of meeting was fixed at the inconveniently early hour of 2. Largely for that object the day's sitting was divided into two by the interposition of the adjournment for an hour and a half between 7.30 and 9—an arrangement which enabled the Government to have two separate orders of business for the period before and after dinner, and thereby gave a far greater elasticity to its power of setting down Bills or Estimates for the two portions of each day. It is certainly remarkable that one of the first actual performances of this earnest and democratic House is to shorten its hours of work, and to deprive the Government of many opportunities of prosecuting diligently its task which Mr. Balfour's Rules gave to it. The later meeting at 2.45; the abolition of the double sitting; the earlier rising at 11; the curtailment of the Friday's sitting by its adjournment at 5, however much these changes may conduce to the comfort of members, will all certainly diminish the legislative driving power of the Government.

There is too a pleasant flavour of irony in the retention of Friday as the day of a morning sitting only. When, under Mr. Balfour's Rules, Friday was substituted for Wednesday as the day of the short sitting, it was a commonplace of every austere Radical that this was the device of a pleasure-seeking Prime Minister—Mr. Balfour who at the present moment according to the "Daily News" is "idling on the Continent"—to gratify the tastes of himself and his more frivolous supporters. To those who had any knowledge of the preparation of those Rules it was notorious that the main object of the change was to meet the convenience of provincial members who were still in business away from London. The party managers believed that the new certainty provided by the change that they would be able to leave London on Friday would make it possible for some of the best type of business men in the northern cities to stand for Parliament, and when

elected to give some attention to their own affairs without any neglect of their duties at Westminster. In the last Parliament two Scotch Conservative members, who were assiduous in their attendance at the House, used regularly on the Friday of each week to travel North to devote the week-end to their own private business. And now, despite the opposition of the Prime Minister, the Friday half-holiday is retained by a considerable majority, and largely through the votes, not of country gentlemen and fashionable Tories, but of the various sections of the labour party. Yet if the frivolous or material convenience of individual members, and groups of members, be put on one side, and regard be simply given to the effective discharge of the business of the House, there can be little doubt that the balance of experienced judgment would be in favour of making Wednesday the half-holiday. The strain of the four consecutive long days on the really hard-worked ministers and members is very great. With a big contentious Bill in Committee, it used to be good for the minister in charge, and useful for informal consultations and arrangements, that there should be an off day in the middle of the week. From a larger than the purely House of Commons point of view it may also be questioned whether the destruction of the Wednesday half-holiday is advantageous. As every one knows, under the old system, that evening was reserved for all those political and social gatherings which are part of the necessary political life of the year. Nowadays it is the Friday evening to which resort must be had. But by then, with our new country-going habits, half the world has left London, and thus sometimes serious political functions are shorn of much of their former interest and even utility.

Of the actual changes in hours that have just been agreed to the postponement of the time of meeting from 2 o'clock to 2.45 will be most generally approved. In the last House there was a great preponderance of opinion amongst private members that 2 o'clock was too early. It pressed severely on all men in professions or business; and even for those of larger leisure it involved an irksome invasion of ordinary family habits. There is a more public reason for rejoicing at the later sitting of the House. It will enable Ministers to spend more time in their own offices, and to have better and greater opportunities of conferring with their departmental advisers. The less administrative work is carried on in the private room of a Minister at the House of Commons, the better for its efficiency and the better too for the health of the Minister and the proper comfort of civil servants.

In practice the division of the day into two separate sittings by the interposition of the adjournment between 7.30 and 9 for dinner did not produce the increased comfort which its authors had anticipated. There grew an irresistible tendency to take divisions of importance just at the rising at 7.30. It was frequently necessary to secure the main division by an antecedent division on the closure, with the result that members were not able to get away till close upon 8 o'clock. Then, the temptation to an eager and alert Opposition to force divisions soon after the resumption of the sitting at 9 was obvious. And in effect the Ministerial Whips gradually realised during the last Sessions of the late Parliament that the anxieties involved in securing the punctual return of an adequate number of their men after the adjournment for dinner were at least as great as those they had suffered under the former procedure in their labours to induce a sufficient force to dine in the House each night. And in the critical times of last year members themselves began to prefer to dine there to running the risk of missing a close division soon after 9. A large group of prominent Tariff Reformers used to dine there together once a week to give the Government a truly effective measure of their loyalty, and to show that they were unwilling to precipitate a dissolution against its wishes. While the fixed adjournment for dinner did not, therefore, conduce to the material comfort of the average member, it did apparently curtail the time for debate by an hour and a half. This time will now be restored, and in this loquacious House there will be no lack of speakers eager to address empty benches for every minute of that time. But in reckoning the real gain to the Government

of the abolition of the dinner adjournment, it would be altogether misleading to count it by its nominal duration of one hour and a half. Much oratory will be poured forth then; but no one who knows anything of the conduct of business supposes that genuine progress will ever be made in the time with any material amendment or any important Government measure.

With regard to the curtailment of time at the end of the sittings, the change is no doubt desirable on general grounds of health and is of special convenience to the growing class of members who live at some distance from Westminster. It is a conspicuous illustration of the democratic composition of the present House of Commons, and, incidentally, it will rob it of some of the scenes which in its past have been most dramatic and impressive. It was in the last two hours of the historical debates of the past, which ended at or about midnight, that the House of Commons used to present the most moving spectacle—when its atmosphere became most charged with electricity, and when the decisive duel between a Gladstone and a Disraeli at times carefully prearranged brought home to the minds of all that this chamber was the central spot of the Empire. Under the new Rules there will, of course, be full-dress debates and in the new hours there will be thrilling encounters and dramatic scenes. But just as no morning performance can quite equal in effect and splendour a state night at the opera, so will the House of Commons in the future lose its most spectacular moments, which grew out of its ancient aristocratic character.

CHEMISTS AND QUACKS.

THERE are two Bills at present before Parliament which may shortly be described as Bills to raise additional obstacles in the way of the public being poisoned. One is a Government measure brought forward by Lord Crewe which embodies recommendations made by a Departmental Committee on the sale of poisonous substances. It gives an elaborate list of poisons and preparations of poisons which must be sold only by chemists, but does not much alter the present law in this respect. The other is a private Bill promoted by the Pharmaceutical Society. Of the two that of the society is somewhat more concerned with preventing the sale of these poisons by unqualified persons. This was to be expected of a professional body like the society which has the power of conferring the right to deal in poisons or make up medicinal prescriptions on persons of due knowledge and skill. Perhaps it will be found advisable to consolidate the two Bills and to include the more stringent clauses of the society's Bill relating to persons qualified to prepare prescriptions or sell poisons in that of the Government. The subject is rather complicated by the fact that there are certain poisonous preparations, chiefly used for agricultural or horticultural purposes, such as sheep-dips and weed-killers and insect-destroyers, and mostly in the country where duly-qualified chemists and druggists are not so easily accessible as they are in towns. An exception here is probably necessary. But it is well known that many other poisonous preparations are sold in shops selling miscellaneous goods. They can be obtained under pretences of various kinds as if for ordinary domestic purposes, cleaning, or dyeing, or for vermin destruction; and many of the suicides amongst the poorer classes are due to the facility with which such poisons can be obtained. Carbolic acid and oxalic acid are very commonly used for poisoning by poor people, yet these are included in the substances which druggists alone can sell. These and several other poisons are only to be sold by retail in boxes, or wrappers, or bottles or other vessels marked poison and under increased safeguards. Probably the monopoly of sale of all poisonous substances cannot be given to chemists; and the Bills will not do much to render the means of suicide more difficult to obtain than they are at present. The Act in which they may be ultimately embodied will probably do something to secure that the poisons mentioned in the schedule to the Act shall only be sold or made up by properly qualified persons under the conditions imposed on them

by the Pharmacy Act. But even so as far as preventing suicide or improper use goes these conditions, though they may be rigorously fulfilled, cannot be an absolute safeguard; and neither Bill alters them. There remains the danger of medicinal prescriptions being prepared by unskilful persons; and so far as the Bills prevent the unqualified from having anything to do with poisons made up in medicine they will be of use.

Dentists and chemists are in the same kind of difficulty in one respect. The skill of making up prescriptions may be compared with the skill of performing dentistry operations. It is equally feasible to prevent unqualified persons practising dentistry as to prevent them making up prescriptions. But if a person does not use a special description he is safe from the protective legislation of the Dentists Act, though any negligence or want of skill may entail an action by the common law. The chemist can at least prevent anyone but a duly qualified person making up prescriptions. But some thirty years ago the chemists found, as the result of an action brought by the Pharmaceutical Society against a Limited Company, that the Companies Acts gave an opportunity for a company, which of course as such was not a qualified person, to prepare prescriptions as well as to sell poisons. The House of Lords held that a company employing a properly qualified person could do whatever such a person could do; and this has been a severe blow to the chemists. The House of Lords decision was given with great doubt; and it would have been better if it had been the other way. Had this been so the dentists would also have been able to prevent the growth of a similar system; as this case has stood in their way too ever since. Now both the chemists and the dentists may have to accept the present situation and can only hope to modify it a little. Both the Government and the Pharmaceutical Society's Bill propose that companies should be put on the society's register, that they should employ a duly qualified person in the conduct of the drug and prescription preparing branch, that the name of such person should be announced on the premises, which are also to be registered. In the case of any offence under the Pharmacy Act the company is to be made liable as if it were an ordinary person. The society's Bill in addition provides that there shall be a separate qualified person at each shop of the company. But as this is the extreme demand that is made by the society, it must feel that it is too late to attempt to set up as strictly guarded a profession as that of law and medicine. It would have been justified in keeping this strictly professional work of dealing with poisons and prescriptions, which ought not to be regarded as a branch of shopkeeping, in the hands of a body of professional persons. But though the society has not the courage to attempt this, perhaps the dentists will be bolder when they see the case which has stood in their way so long being, if not altogether reversed by legislation, at least greatly modified.

No one who goes to a person or a company practising dentistry can be sure he will be treated by a skilful practitioner unless he demands proof that the person is duly certified. And hardly even medicine itself can be more dangerous when practised by the incompetent. The legal theory is generally that any person who chooses may practise any calling, and it is for the public to find out whether his services are worth paying for. So that any quack can practise medicine if he does not pretend to be a physician or surgeon. Though he cannot recover fees for attendance he can take his money and he commits no offence. He may expose himself to more risk than a doctor if anything goes wrong and he is sued for negligence or want of skill, or if he should happen to be indicted. But in the case of medicine or surgery and dentistry the public need more protection than this. The ignorance of the common people is extraordinary, and their views of medicine partake more of the nature of superstition than anything. The credentials of a quack are as credible in their eyes as those of the most scientific practitioner. In the dentistry profession where so many are holding themselves out to practise, the distinction between approved qualifications and fancy descriptions is difficult for ignorant

people to grasp; and the only safeguard is that none but practitioners with approved qualifications should be permitted to practise. If one goes to a dentistry company the difficulty is increased; he may find himself in the hands of a man without qualifications, though the manager himself may be qualified. There would be the same trouble about lawyers if the lawyers, as is natural, had not taken more care to protect themselves even than doctors. You may pay a man for legal advice it is true; but usually advice only does not go far. Your case must be taken into court, or you need some legal document drawn, a lease or a conveyance. But no man who is not a lawyer can represent another in court; and if any man but a lawyer charges for drawing a conveyancing document he commits an offence and the Law Society will let him know of it. Then lawyers and doctors too can prevent a qualified man from serving as the servant of an unqualified man, or acting as a "cover". But this is exactly what is done if a qualified dentist or chemist acts as servant to a company. This is open to abuse for the "cover" enables the company to employ inferior assistants; and when they have got their "cover" he is probably some dependent creature who is too broken to be in practice for himself. It would be for the good of the public if all who undertake to operate in any way on the human body were under as strict professional rules as the members of the legal profession. Every member of every company and firm ought to have the responsibilities and the status of an individual member and have no right as a mere business man to the profits. There are men, bone-setters for instance, who have wonderful skill, and who practise their special art more successfully than ordinary doctors or surgeons. But there are less skilful practitioners of these special arts by whom the public may be injured or defrauded. These are difficult cases. People who are sufferers want skill whether it has diplomas or not. It is not often possible to sympathise with the regular practitioners who would suppress it. There ought to be some means by which, within the defined limits of their art, they should be regularly authorised to practise it. The object is to establish professional privileges only so far as they serve the public good.

THE CITY.

THE Bank-rate has been reduced from 4 to 3½ and the ease of money here is in striking contrast to the continued tightness of money in New York, where call loans were quoted on Thursday at 15 per cent. Either the Americans are over-trading, that is to say, over-producing and embarking on enterprises for which they cannot get sufficient capital, or there is something very wrong with their currency law. It is absurd that in a business centre like New York borrowers should have to pay 15 per cent. though perhaps the stringency may be a good deal exaggerated and artificial. We remember that in December and the first half of January when money was at famine prices, being quoted at 30 per cent. and higher, there was a strong bull market. During the last six weeks, when money has been normally cheap, the American market has been dull and bearish. Wall Street is certainly the home of paradoxes and surprises. At the end of last week it was definitely announced that there was to be a strike in both the anthracite and bituminous coal fields, and the newspapers were full of sensational paragraphs about 400,000 men being out of work. For one day the market flinched and prices dropped a dollar or two. But on Saturday it immediately became apparent that the market was very strong, and that the big interests were not going to let it down. On Monday and Tuesday it looked as if the spring boom had begun. Union Pacifics rose 3 points and Steel Commons rose 3 to 44, and Readings rose 3 from 68½ to 71½. It then appeared that the most important centres of the bituminous coal industry had settled a wages scale, while the anthracite strike is still unsettled. We believe what we stated in our issue a week ago to be the fact—namely, that the Reading company desires to prolong the negotiations with its men for a week or so, in order to work off some of its accumulated stock before the summer begins, at

strike prices, and that as soon as this object is accomplished, we shall hear that the wages scale is settled, and Reading shares will go to 80 or higher. If the big interests in New York want to bring about a general bull movement, as we believe that they do, they can and will do so, dear money or cheap money. Under the influence of the troubles in Natal and Mr. Churchill's speeches Kaffir shares droop and wither, and are likely to do so for another year until the settlement of the new Constitution. The oasis in the desert has been Premier Diamond Deferred, which have risen during the account from £13 to £15, and are talked up to £20. Colombian bonds at 46½ are a good purchase, as they will receive 3 per cent. in July from the Government, making them a 6½ per cent. investment.

Two new motor-omnibus companies offer shares to the public, the London Standard Motor Omnibus Company, and the London Central Motor Omnibus Company. Although it is stated in the prospectus of the former company (which with a capital of £250,000 offers 200,000 shares of £1 to the public), that in and around London there are only about 303 motor to 3,484 horse omnibuses, we must repeat our warning to intending investors in these shares that the cost of depreciation is as yet imperfectly known. It is of course indubitable that the motor will drive the horse omnibus and we believe in time the tramway off the streets; but until such time as experience has proved the cost of wear and tear the calculation of profits and consequently the capitalisation of these new motor-omnibus companies is a good deal guesswork. The London Motor Omnibus Company has been going barely a year and paid an interim dividend at the end of the first six months at the rate of 10 per cent. with the consequence that its £1 shares now stand at a premium of 10s. Whether this dividend was prudently or imprudently declared remains to be seen: but as the London Motor Omnibus Company was first in the field it naturally reaped larger profits than will be realised when it has to compete with half a dozen rivals. It should also be remembered that the two old companies, the London General Omnibus and the London Road Car are putting motors on the streets as fast as they can. There is one drawback to the motor-omnibus which will, we hear, shortly be remedied, namely, that of skidding. We are informed that a patent American axle, which absolutely prevents skidding, is about to be placed on the market. A thousand-mile trial, part of the way over an artificially greased surface, is, we believe, now taking place under the auspices of the Automobile Club.

A new Chilian Government four and a half per cent. Gold Loan and new Corporation of London three per cent. Debenture stock are among the issues of the week, for which subscriptions are invited.

RECENT INSURANCE VALUATIONS.

THE valuation of a Life office corresponds to the stocktaking of a commercial firm. The actuary calculates the present liability of the company, and the difference between this present liability and the funds in hand constitutes the surplus, the whole or part of which is available for bonuses. The tendency among British companies is to publish valuation returns every five years and many companies are doing so this year.

Among the most important of these is the Scottish Amicable, a company which was founded in 1826 whose valuation is remarkable for the strength of the reserves and the large sources of profit which are provided. Funds are set aside which would meet the liabilities if interest were earned at the rate of only 2½ per cent. per annum. The rate actually earned last year was £3 17s. 5d. There being no shareholders the whole of the surplus goes to the participating policyholders who receive the large bonus of 35s. per cent. per annum calculated upon the sum assured and upon previous bonuses. The results under the society's policies are extremely good and the strength of its position is such that they are not likely to decrease. The English and Scottish Law values its liabilities on a 3 per cent. basis, the interest earned upon the funds being

£3 18s. 5d. The provision made for expenses is about 17½ per cent. of the premiums, nearly the whole of which is absorbed in commission and expenses. The shareholders take all the profits from the annuity business, and 10 per cent. of the surplus on the Life business. The bonus declared on participating policies was at the rate of £1 per cent. per annum on sums assured and on previous bonuses. This return is better than the result given five years ago, but is not sufficient to make the company's policies compare favourably with those of some other offices.

The United Kingdom Temperance Institution makes its valuation on a 2½ per cent. basis and earns £3 13s. 4d. per cent. upon its funds. The whole surplus goes to the policyholders, since it is a mutual office, and the bonus this year shows an increase. Policies in the general section receive a bonus of 35s., and in the temperance section, of 42s., in both cases calculated upon sums assured and previous bonuses. These results are among the best that can be obtained anywhere. The Scottish Accident, which only commenced Life business in 1896, has published its second quinquennial valuation. The liabilities are calculated on the basis of 3¼ per cent., which is quite appropriate for so young a company. The shareholders take 10 per cent. of the surplus, but we do not quite understand what is to happen to the policyholders. They are apparently to have a deferred bonus. The statement is "that the measure of the deferred bonus be £1 10s. per cent. per annum in the abstainers' section, and £1 3s. per cent. per annum in the general section". The company has done well to be able to declare a bonus at the end of ten years.

The Metropolitan makes a valuation every year, and the only fresh departure to be noticed on the present occasion is that the reserves have been still further strengthened. The society holds funds which provide for the maintenance of the bonus at its present rate. The bonus is given in the form of an abatement of the premiums which varies from 74 per cent. upon old policies to 34 per cent. upon recent policies. There is a monotony of excellence about the Metropolitan, slightly varied this year by having increased its reserves and by having made still more attractive the low premium system by which future profits are discounted and employed to reduce the premium from the outset.

A word of congratulation must be given to the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow on being able to declare a bonus at the rate of 15s. per cent. The amount is small, but is a welcome indication that the difficulties which the company has experienced are being overcome.

THE PURCHASE OF PICTURES FOR THE NATION.

DISCUSSION on the subject of the "Rokeby Velazquez" has confused with a quantity of irresponsible gossip a question which people would do well to discuss seriously, and the collapse of the gossip may throw this practical and pressing problem into the background. The problem is, How shall the nation, as purchaser, approach vendors on equal terms with other purchasers, be they private collectors, directors of well-endowed foreign galleries, or dealers? At present the nation is at a very serious disadvantage. The Trustees of the National Gallery have a grant of £5,000 a year to spend; no well-known picture of the very first rank is likely to be obtainable for that sum, and they may at any moment be called upon to decide about pictures whose price is ten, twenty, fifty thousand pounds or more, even to those who are first in the field. Suppose that the Trustees are first in the field, they cannot offer with promptitude because their power of purchase depends either on persuading a reluctant Treasury or on raising the money by private subscription. If they are not first in the field their case is made more difficult still by the enhanced price that has to be paid to intermediaries. In the recent instance the moment for the most advantageous action had passed and the "Venus" was saved for the nation by the subscriptions of private individuals and the forbearance of the dealers who held the picture.

The rescue had to be effected somehow, and a society that was founded to supplement the nation's buying rather than to do the main work had to take the burden on its shoulders.

Everyone must recognise how difficult it is for the Trustees to act in these recurring emergencies. When they have come to agreement among themselves that a purchase is desirable they are only at the beginning of their difficulties; they are no more than prospective beggars, and have to judge whether the moment or the occasion is propitious for approaching the limited number of large donors to whom they can, with confidence, appeal. The problem therefore divides itself into three parts.

1. How are the Trustees to know at the earliest moment of the coming into the market of pictures, so as to have the offer of them at the original vendor's price?

2. How are they to be able to offer without delay pending an appeal for funds?

3. How are the funds eventually to be obtained?

Suggestions have recently been made under the first and third heads, but so far as I have seen, no one has attempted to meet the difficulty under (2), which is crucial in the matter of dealing on equal terms with competitors. Reserving that for the moment, let us look at (1) and (3). Under the first head Mrs. Strong has made a proposal* which deserves careful consideration, namely for the survey and registration of private collections of art, so that the authorities should know exactly what treasures are in private hands, and be notified of any change of ownership. There are two objections to this proposal, and I confess they seem to me very serious. The first is the heavy cost of a duly qualified commission: the money might be better spent on purchases. The second is that if this register were a public one, as I suppose it must be, our rivals would be as thoroughly informed as ourselves, and also the owners, with the result of precipitating sales. If Parliament took powers of registration, it would be necessary at the same time to put a heavy export duty on works of art and an effective penalty for its evasion. It may be added that legislation, survey and registration would take some time, and the sale of half the desirable pictures might have taken place before the machinery was ready.

The editor of the "Burlington"† makes a suggestion more likely to meet the immediate necessities. It is that the Trustees should draw up, from existing knowledge, a list of pictures that should at all costs be kept in the country, and concentrate their efforts on acquiring them when they come into the market, leaving the supplementing of the collection by pictures of secondary value or, it may be added, value less generally known to private benefactors and the National Art Collections Fund. He puts it that there are only a dozen or twenty pictures that need be included in the list. The number might reasonably be increased, especially if we include Reynolds and Gainsborough in the list, as we ought to do; still even a minimum list of pictures absolutely agreed upon would have this advantage, that no time would be lost in discussing them if they came into the market.

So much for the first point. Suppose the task of the Trustees simplified to watching for a definitely agreed upon list of masterpieces and any of the same rank that might unexpectedly come into the market. Where is the money to come from? The editor of the "Burlington" proposes that the annual grant should be husbanded for these cases. He also refers to the proposal, already mentioned here, of a stamp duty on art sales, to be applied to purchase. It is to be hoped the Government will seriously consider this scheme, if they are not prepared in some other way to meet the demands of a time in which a £5,000 grant is a totally inadequate safeguard for our national treasures.

Is it, however, impossible that Government should exercise at once a little providence and consider the problem as they would one of national defence? At present they are in the very common but not very sensible or dignified position of the householder who

doles out cheques from time to time for expenses in the belief that his grudging attitude and giving the money as of grace will be a check upon endless demands. The better way is to face the problem at close quarters, find out what expenditure is ultimately involved, and decide whether the nation can afford it. Thus regarded, the cost of the pictures which ought, so to speak, to be insured for the nation, is, in comparison with their value as possessions, a trifle. The attack on our great private collections has begun, the hottest of the encounter will be over in a few years, certainly well within a generation, and a credit of a million opened in the Budget now,* to be drawn upon by the Trustees as occasion arose, would save the situation. A million means fifty pictures at an average of £20,000 each, or twenty pictures at an average of £50,000 each, to put the case at the worst. With such a defence for what may be called the necessities, private donors would be free to think about adding luxuries.

But supposing Government cannot rise to this provident and economical view, and leaves the Trustees, as before, to emergency begging, it seems to me there is a simple way in which their greatest difficulty, that under (2), could be met. Their grant of £5,000 is at present useless to them when well-known pictures of the first importance come into the market. It would be of the greatest use to them if they were empowered to use some part of it for paying interest on the price of a picture till the money could be found. Their anomalous position at present is that they have the best security in the world behind them, that of the British Government, and cannot raise a penny upon it, though they are trading on a capital of over £180,000. Let us see, in an hypothetical case, what a difference the power to raise money to the extent of the security of the annual grant would make. A picture of the first importance is offered to the nation by its owner at £30,000. At present the Trustees must refuse it unless they can persuade the Government to step in, or raise a guarantee fund among private benefactors, and both processes, even if successful, mean delay. With the powers suggested they would buy the picture at once, raise the money at Government rates of borrowing (say, for simplicity 3 per cent.), and pay if necessary, the full £900 of interest out of their grant till the capital sum could be paid off. £900 is interest for a year; the actual interest might be for a month or months. Suppose an extravagant case, that in one year five of the "necessary" pictures at £30,000 each had to be secured, it could be done, and leave £500 over for small emergencies. Suppose further, extravagantly, that no money was forthcoming from Government or the public towards the price, the sum obtained in entrance fees, amounting last year to nearly £2,000, might be applied as a sinking fund. The five pictures might conceivably be so valuable that it would be worth while to hypothecate the paltry grant for ever rather than lose them. But in ordinary circumstances part of the grant would be available to pay off capital at once, thus reducing interest.

Under this scheme we should have a secure first line of defence for the "necessary" or "national heirloom" pictures. The only objection I foresee is that the securing of the picture might reduce the pressure upon private generosity. To meet this it would be only fair that Government should undertake, in the case of pictures recommended by the Trustees, to give a grant equal to that provided by private subscription. The Trustees and volunteer associations could then join hands in appealing to the public.

I throw out these suggestions for discussion, in the hope that if our regular national resources for buying are to remain as at present, some more elastic way may be found of employing them to the best advantage. Suppose them increased by the admirable idea of a stamp-tax on sales, the device I propose would be less necessary, or a large sinking-fund would be provided. Further, this stamp-tax might be remitted in the case of national purchases, thus giving the owner an inducement to sell to the nation, and the nation an advantage over private or foreign purchasers. A remission of death-duties on scheduled pictures would

* "Nineteenth Century" for February.

† "Burlington Magazine" for January and March.

* I leave the details of such an operation, by the issuing of a loan or otherwise, to financial experts.

tend to postpone the necessity for national purchase. If Government could once realise how limited the problem of the "necessary" pictures is, there would be greater hope of action. D. S. MACCOLL.

THE DECAYING ART OF SINGING.

MR. CHARLES LUNN has long been known to me and the rest of the world as a teacher of singing whose enthusiasm for his art verges on fanaticism. Your fanatic may often be a nuisance, especially to his friends, but in art as in other walks of life he is occasionally—a necessity. He is a man of one idea and he is for ever talking about it; and we people who also want to talk object to him. Yet by rushing in where the angels of mediocrity fear to tread he sometimes manages to effect a desirable change and proves that the deepest wisdom may lie beyond the naïveté which is always taken to indicate the fool. Mr. Lunn has often been called a fool, but I fancy the only people who have found him a nuisance are those whose theories he has exploded or whose facts he has shown to be mere absurdities. A tenth edition of his biggest work has just appeared,* so it is evident his evangel has been and is being listened to. He is not precisely a youngster and must during a very active life have gained many disciples. Whether any of them will have the pluck to take up his work is a matter on which I can express no opinion. Judging from the following appendix to his book—which I make no excuse for quoting in full—Mr. Lunn himself apparently thinks so:—

"In 1900 I took my original Essay, converted it into a Treatise, rewrote it, added much to it, and made it practically a new book. As it now stands it forms the first volume of my attempted great reform in the art of tuition, and may be called the Structural Department. My second volume—the Technical Department—was published by subscription for my disciples and pupils who teach (Reynolds and Co., 13 Berners Street, W.). The third volume—the Artistic Department—is too incomplete for me to finish at my years; but it was my intention to include therein a thorough Manual of Phrasing both music and thought in words, fixed on a psychological base, and showing how the two forms of appeal interchange, intersect, and intertwine. It was my intention to try and define the point of contact where the physical and spiritual tone of voice in man meet, and write a chapter on Colour, showing the influence of the angle of incidence and reflection in the crook of the instrument when submitting sound in *oneness* into space, and the still more complex conditions for fluffing (*voce cupa*), the brightness of tone and changing its colour, if required, with its quantity. These things have never been done; it must be left now for some more able hand."

I would suggest that Mr. Lunn can easily do the thing himself if he wastes no more time on polemics. He has established his position as the foremost authority on voice-production and proved his points beyond any possibility of contradiction, and instead of fighting over again and again a battle that is already won he would be more usefully employed in laying down further principles for the guidance of the next generation.

It is a curious fact that while singing is necessarily the oldest branch of the art of music, and certainly the most natural, there has been more squabbling over the art of teaching it than about any other subject known to me. As Mr. Lunn declares, chaos prevails. There are and always have been nearly as many only correct methods as teachers. In time order will prevail and we shall have to thank Mr. Lunn for it; but in the meantime each teacher is the sole possessor of the grand secret of a perfect production and all other teachers are wrong if not absolutely charlatans and rogues. It is only after devoting years to careful study of the subject that one can with some confidence take the views of any teacher at anything less than the teacher's valuation. This means that during the best years of their lives hundreds of students have no feeling of security as to the correctness of the road they are taking; and as a matter of fact though many dispute and fight with as much ardour and acerbity as their masters, many more are blown hither and thither like leaves in a gale, trying this master and that, this and that

system, always hopeful of finding the truth at last, and in the long run either losing their voices altogether or finding the truth too late to make use of it. It is no exaggeration to say that in England alone thousands of good or fairly good voices are ruined, irretrievably lost, every year. Yet singing, I say, is a perfectly natural art, as natural as talking or walking or eating; and some of the singers who have created the greatest furore and won the widest fame have done so early in life, before understanding scientific voice production or the use of the laryngoscope or the meaning of abdominal breathing. What is the reason for all this confusion? Who is right and who is wrong?

Mr. Charles Lunn goes straight to the root of the business. The frontispiece of his book consists of a picture of a bird in the act of singing. He assumes that singing is natural and he insists that all the errors and bad teaching which obtain are due to interference with the almost automatic action of the lungs, throat and larynx. This is not an historical explanation of the origin of bad teaching, but it suggests the explanation. Bad, erroneous teaching began with people in a hurry for celebrity and wealth and people with middling voices who were willing—nay, anxious—to pay to have them turned into fine ones. They were not simply the easy prey of the charlatan or wrong-headed, ignorant, well-meaning and honest discoverer of effective means of breaking the voice—they sought them out, they placed a premium on humbug and ignorance. While a few singers by their native gifts and more by patient and wise industry arrived at doing great things, the vast majority tried to find a short cut by the aid of science; and gradually the superstition grew up that science could take the place of art and unbiassed observation. Honest and dishonest teachers alike believed or pretended to believe in methods and system; and if all the experts declared that a system was necessary—each advocating his own and condemning the others—it was not wonderful that the public believed them, each member of the public reserving the right to choose his own prophet. This explanation of the present chaos seems to me an inevitable corollary to Mr. Lunn's axioms and postulate.

The testimony and evidence Mr. Lunn brings forward to support his contention are overwhelming. First of all his method—a natural, bird-like production of tone with the aid of air compressed in the throat—was learnt, he says, from his teacher Cattanes, who in turn said it was identical with the method of Porpora. Now Nicolo Porpora was undoubtedly one of the greatest singing-masters who has lived, and his best pupils were remarkable for the very qualities Mr. Lunn claims to develop in *his* pupils and to my knowledge has obtained in many cases. Again, Mr. Lunn's science is beyond doubt. Years ago he condemned abdominal breathing and the late Sir Morell Mackenzie agreed with him; and Morell Mackenzie was a more trustworthy authority than the pseudo-scientists of to-day who get their systems boomed in the monthly reviews and magazines. The essence of Mr. Lunn's teaching is that to sing well you must sing as a bird sings, which is by no means easy for civilised, artificial man and woman brought up in the faith that whatever is natural must be wrong. Every human faculty must be brought into use with a view of attaining the one end—to give vocal expression to human thought and feeling as freely and with as little effort as a bird expresses its thought and feeling. And as the nightingale's voice is of beautiful quality so must be the human voice—that is where you must start; and to ensure beautiful tone you must not get your fortes by over-exertion: rather your pianos and pianissimos must be obtained by holding power in. To achieve fine results you must use voice, heart and head—"the voice to obey, the heart to tinge with emotional glow, the head to rule for a purpose". How all this is to be done cannot be explained here; it takes Mr. Lunn some hundreds of pages to explain it in his book; and to the book I refer my vocally inclined readers.

But neither Mr. Lunn nor anyone else can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, nor make a fine voice when nature has not provided one. Far too many people want to sing and try to do it, with the result

* "The Philosophy of Voice." By Charles Lunn. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1906. 6s. net.

that our ears are tortured and demoralised, and year by year the art of singing is dying out. A man without fingers does not try to play the piano; one without legs does not try to ride a bicycle; but anyone who can get out the most lamentable croak thinks himself or herself justified in getting up in a drawing-room and howling sentimental balderdash. A society should be formed for the suppression of singing save in the strictest privacy. It would meet with the most violent opposition from the fashionable singing-masters at whose doors you may see on any fine day in the season rows of carriages. They wait while stylish ladies without voice receive twenty minutes of oily flattery and absurd instruction from a man who knows nothing of the voice, nothing of music, nothing of the art of singing, but rakes in guineas all the day long. The fashionable teacher of singing is the enemy of mankind and a curse to music. When the millennium arrives, or a little later, everyone will have read and understood Mr. Lunn and the place of the singing master will know him no more—for which blessing let those who will thank Providence in advance, but not too soon.

JOHN F. RUNCIMAN.

WATER-COLOURS AT THE CARFAX.

ONE of the distinguishing characteristics of Mr. D. S. MacColl's drawings in water-colour is that they do not pretend to be paintings in oils. The modern desire to confuse mediums, to break bounds, to bring all the orchestra into the piano, has led many painters to forget that there are reasons why the special qualities and possibilities of drawing in water-colour should not be hastily given up for a really thankless attempt to attain qualities, and to snatch at possibilities, proper only to oil-painting. As I look at Mr. MacColl's distinguished reticence, his way of keeping almost proudly within bounds, I cannot help thinking of such modern experiments as those which we have heard so highly praised in work like Mr. Arthur Melville's, precisely because it might almost be mistaken for work in oils. Mr. MacColl attempts no unusual problems, affects none of the brutal modern way of seeing, is never untidy in order to be original; and would rather seem insipid than audacious. He sees in his own way, but does not accentuate that way, or even allow it to be emphatic; his colours are rare, but are brought gently together, not married in some fierce protesting wedlock. He has absolutely none of the vulgarity of display, and will not ask your attention by even the most presentable "fake". His simplicity has in it something at once gay and severe; it is without surprise but, at its best, is wholly satisfying. Something has been seen with an engaging frankness and set down with affectionate care.

In a painter who is equally well known as a writer and critic of painting, one's first impulse is perhaps to expect something "literary" in the work. Certainly anyone looking at this roomful of water-colours would be puzzled to find the literary element in work so wholly a record of the sight of the eyes, noting so sympathetically the qualities of colour brought out by changing lights, something indeed of the very feel of air and space, so different in the Twickenham "Black Summer" and in the "Théâtre de Verdure" at Honfleur. It is interesting to note that the painters whom, as a critic, Mr. MacColl most admires, have left not a trace of influence upon his work. That work is the genuine outcome of a temperament and of a talent, which, it is evident, could express itself in no other way. So precise indeed, and so certain are its preferences, that we find him notably more himself in his renderings of French than of English scenery. In the English landscapes, done more freely, there are occasional suggestions of Mr. Steer; but in his rendering of the clear bright colours and definite slender forms of French seacoast town and country he has an almost prim daintiness, a frank yet reserved gaiety, which is all his own. It is his own, but he has found it where it is, in those aspects of France which most appeal to him; the red flags of "Honfleur en fête" (perhaps the most individual drawing in the exhibition) or the bare street in which one seems to feel the

presence of rain, chilling and discomforting the sea's edge of the town. How French is the colour and feeling of "Little Lieutenant", of "The Hundred Masts" (done with a kind of Japanese precision and sense of the pleasure of thin upright lines), of the "Low Tide", of "The Harbour, Dieppe". The mere locality of this last, so favourite a haunt of Ernest Dowson, set one thinking of how much there is in common between the art of Mr. MacColl and that of Dowson. There is something of the same faint colour, fine reticence, elegant formality, a kind of discreetness, which is a quality, if not French, at least Latin. And there is something in these water-colours which I am tempted to call lyrical, though I have just said that there is nothing in them that is "literary". But by lyrical I mean that they may be compared, in terms of paint, with what in terms of poetry would be lyrical writing. A lyric may be a slight thing, only just existing; and these water-colours, if one puts them by the side of Bonington, let us say, only just exist. But precisely as a tiny lyric of Dowson, perfect in its tiny way, is worth more than whole "Thalabas" and "Epics of Hades", and can hold its own against "Aurora Leighs" and "Idylls of the King", so, among all the pretentious and even powerful work of the day, things like these water-colours have their place, refusing and not requiring rivalry, quiet in their corner.

ARTHUR SYMONS.

FROM A DUFFER'S POINT OF VIEW.

WHEN an idle man is alone for a day or two in a country town, and has seen all he wishes of its lions, time is apt to hang heavy on his hands. He has walked up and down the High Street till he knows the passers-by by sight, and is morbidly aware that they too know him. Or he has paraded the sea-front till he feels diabolical impulses to accost utter strangers. He fancies that the very flymen and shopkeepers mark him, and suggest to the policeman to keep an eye on him as "loitering with intent to commit a felony".

Happy is his lot if, passing the Corn Exchange or the Concert Hall for the fortieth time, he become aware that something is going on within and enter. Though he would willingly pay for sanctuary, no demand is made on him except for "silence". Coasting the screen to which this notice is affixed, he will find himself among a peaceful people engaged in internecine combat.

At first his mind will fly back to the days when he went up for examinations. Here are the long tables with men sitting bowed over problems. There is a high table at which two or three dons are seated before a mass of papers, looking indulgently down on the crowd. Other dons meander round the tables, as though to see that no one consults a crib. But there are no gowns either on don or undergrad, and nine out of ten are smoking. Over them hangs the cloud which is, as Charles Reade said, "the only cloud that betokens peace". For this is an Annual Congress of the County Chess Association, and all these be worshippers of the great goddess Caisa, before whose altars the incense smoke of tobacco rises for ever. The story runs that at a congress held in a cathedral city, a veteran chess-master and a bishop held converse. Said the master "No one can play chess who does not smoke". "But", said the bishop, "Archbishop Cranmer played chess. Where could he get tobacco?" "Sir", said the master, "clergymen do not play chess—only skittles!"

Not many years ago Caisa was worshipped of few, at least in England. She had indeed her faithful votaries, but the public were afraid of her. Many more play now than of yore, but the fear dies slowly. The first and weakest objection to her is the complexity of her alphabet. The timid are sure that they can never learn the moves. The most moderate intelligence can master them in half an hour. As well might a man refuse to attack Greek or German because of the crabbed characters.

With more force they argue that chess is "too difficult". But the fact, to be denied of none, that chess is so difficult, that perfection therein is unattainable

and excellence exceedingly rare, is the very reason why it is open to all. In the sight of the Eternal all men are equal, and the Master and the duffer are nearer together at chess than at any other game of pure skill, because, in face of its tremendous possibilities, the Master, as he will be the first to admit, is an awful duffer. One of those delightful people who, for the amusement of a mopish world, deal in figures, has calculated the possible variations of chess. At the rate of a move a minute, the possibilities of the first four moves would take a man 600,000 years to go through. The variations of the first ten moves would, at the same rate, take the whole population of the globe 217 billions of years. An amount of time few would be able to spare. This reflection is truly soothing to the duffer, since he is quite as likely to learn them all as is Dr. Lasker.

Then the public affirms that chess is "dull"! No player, however feeble his play, can in the least understand what it means. Dull? If he must find fault with his mistress, it is because she is too exigeante, because the pursuit of her is too exciting, and because she sets his brain in a whirl with her unexpectedness. Perhaps to an ignorant onlooker any game is dull. Who would willingly watch whist or bridge being played if he knew not the rules? Crowds indeed flock to watch outdoor sports, knowing little of them. It is a fashion, and will pass. Some too, guiltless of ever having made a fifty break, go to see billiard matches. But then they mostly bet, and chess, for which alone she deserves to be called queen of games, is never played for money. Which again is good for the duffers. We know, too, instances where people, ignorant of the game, take pleasure in watching chess-players. They tell us that almost every one of us has a distinctive trick, a twisting of the moustache, or a fondling of the nose, which makes our meditations amusing to watch.

Of course we are not all duffers at the congress. We have the Masters who yearly dazzle us with uncanny exhibitions of their skill, playing twenty games at once blindfolded &c., feats aut Erasmi aut Diaboli. Even leaving them out, we have a large leaven of very good players. But a good many of us are duffers, and greatly do we enjoy ourselves. For one thing, we meet pleasant people every year whom otherwise we might never see, and, for another, we meet in pleasant places.

Sometimes, as above-mentioned, we nestle beneath the shade of a cathedral, in an old grey city, courteously entertained of mayors, and blessed (unofficially) by bishops. The Church has always looked kindly on chess, though according to Duffresne "the monks for some time were not allowed even chess". Did not Cranmer play chess, and did not another archbishop (to be sure it was before he donned the purple) knock Sidney Smith down with the chessboard for check-mating him? So at least Sidney affirmed in print. Perhaps this kindness is due to the absence of the baneful blot of gambling. Anyhow we generally muster in our ranks many parsons, not all, in spite of the Master's sarcasm, duffers.

But we are not tied to the neighbourhood of the close. One year we may be by the sea, at a fashionable watering-place, the next inland. Once we dwelt for a week in the Crystal Palace. It was a little weird to sit playing chess in that gigantic conservatory, with the Somali village in full swing beneath our windows. To feel at home in the Palace, and go in and out gratis and unchallenged was quite an experience. Another year we may be found on the Pantiles, reminiscent of Grammont and Hamilton, of Johnson and Lady Kitty Crocodile, of Thackeray and Tom Moore. One wonders what Grammont would think of us, could he swagger in and see us over our boards. Perhaps that we took our pleasure "moult tristement". But he doubtless played chess, though, we take it, only to oblige. He preferred a game where money was staked and at which he could—cheat. Now it is very difficult to cheat at chess: one cannot keep a knight up one's sleeve like an ace. Grammont would not trouble us long, any more than does the modern dandy, who does, now and then, look in from the links or from his motor (fancy Grammont in goggles!), but soon drifts out again, deeming us "slow".

A very wise "Ofellus in the art of living in London" used to advise every young man to become, as soon as might be, a member of an old and staid club, and to visit that club, rarely if he liked, but regularly, so as to be known to the members and servants. He might, in addition, belong to half a dozen "Bear-gardens". So, this sage would say, when gambling palls, and ginger becomes altogether too hot i' the mouth, when a man wonders why the committee admit boys to the other clubs, he will have a retreat. Just such a club chess provides, and will when you are too stiff for golf, and have lost all your money at bridge, admit you into peaceful habitations. And, as in the other case, it is well to begin before the need makes itself felt.

And let no one be scared by "difficulty". It is more or less of a bugbear. To become a master, probably a special mental equipment, certainly much application is needed. For enjoyment, a modicum of each will suffice. Let him who doubts look in at the next congress and watch the delight of the duffer. He has no partner to suffer for his blunders. He makes them over and over again with impunity, and a touching childlike surprise. And he enjoys himself more and more every time.

FEUDAL SHREWSBURY.*

SCROBBESBYRIG, Slopesbury, Salop Shrewsbury (the settlement amid the shrubs); so the Mercian who more than a thousand years ago captured it named the place. To the Welshman the lost capital of Powys which he ever yearned to recover was Pengwern (the knoll amid the alders) or Amythig (the delight).

For many a century the men of Shrewsbury ever lived in fear of the return of the Kymric rule, and of this dread their red castle that safeguards the isthmus which the Severn that washes the rest of the tower leaves unguarded, their one remaining grey wall-turret, the fragment of their now unbattlemented ramparts, their river gateway, where to-day no gate is, are the memorials.

What was the appearance of Shrewsbury on the day of Senlac field, we know well, thanks to the business-like pages of Doomsday. The central portion of the burgh boasted many of its present features. There was a fortress on the isthmus; there was a S. Mary's, a S. Julian's, and a S. Alkmund's Church within the wall and a S. Chad's without. On the high ground, where now stand Pride Hill, Butcher's Row, Dogpole, you saw the two hundred and fifty-two houses of the gild-paying burghers, whose sheep and cattle grazed on the river banks below.

After Senlac the terrible Norman House of Montgomery lorded it in Shrewsbury. The burghers cursed Roger their first Earl, when he hurled down their houses to build his Norman keep; but if Roger did some evil he was at least civil to the Shrewsbury parsons, and he has left an enduring memorial in the red sandstone abbey that he raised across the water over against the eastern gate of his town. But the ambition of the Marcher Earl was not bounded by his Shropshire domain, he carried the name of Montgomery through Powys across Plynlimon to far-away Pembroke. And when he was sleeping peacefully betwixt the two altars in his Shrewsbury Abbey, his sons Hugh the Red and Robert de Belesme pushed on his wild career of conquest. Fate soon met Red Hugh on the coasts of Anglesea amid the people he had tortured and the churches that he had profaned, and Robert de Belesme ruled in Shrewsbury Castle. In this Robert, child of that evil woman Mabel de Belesme, the monks beheld only a fiend. Yet this Norman Cerberus as he gazed from his castle keep over the plain of Shropshire and the hills of Powysland dreamed a dream of empire. His town of Shrewsbury, such was the vision, was to be the capital of a new kingdom of the West with the Princes of Wales for its tributaries, and the kings of Ireland for its allies. For a moment it seemed as if the wild dream would become true. The Welsh turned to the Marcher Earl as one who would make their land glad with freedom, and by the side of his Norman men-at-arms were ranged

* "Shrewsbury." By Thomas Auden. London: Methuen, 1905. 4s. 6d. net.

the spearmen of the princes of Powys. But in Henry Beauclerk our Earl met a courage and diplomacy equal to his own. His Welsh allies to their future cost were corrupted; his vassals fell away, and when King Henry pushing through Wenlock Woods from conquered Bridgnorth swooped down on Shrewsbury Castle, De Belesme must perforce lay his keys at his overlord's feet. So for ever set the star of Montgomery; the days of the house were few and evil; but its name remains written on Kymric soil to this day.

We may not linger on the wild scenes that Shrewsbury saw in the years that followed the passing of Montgomery. Our next view of the town is in the days of John Lackland. On the burghers of Shrewsbury rejoicing in the freedom that they have purchased from the tyrant (they now like a French town boast their commune and fair) has fallen the thunderbolt of war. They stand in their armour on the Welsh bridge awaiting the assault of the mightiest of all the native rulers of Wales, Llywelyn ap Iorwerth. But while the burghers watch the Welsh road, the Welshmen on their mountain passes have forced their passage by Shrewsbury's other bridge that looks to England, where the Benedictine Abbey stands. Ere the sun has set that eve in 1215, the wheel has come "full circle", and after four hundred years of alien yoke Pengwern has been won back for Wales. It is only for a few weeks that the banners of Wales wave over the heights of Shrewsbury. As the Cambrian army passes, the burghers return to their overlord, but ever and anon does Llywelyn's hand fall hard on the land that scorns to do homage to the "Lord of Snowdon and the Council of the Welsh Princes". For many a day these fields round Shrewsbury are untilled, the roads are covered with unburied corpses. And even when the terrible Prince has been laid at rest it is not long ere his more daring grandson Llywelyn ap-Gruffydd is the terror of the homesteads of Salop. But at last comes the hour of Shrewsbury, and of Longshanks' triumph, when, after Llywelyn's fall in the Builth valley, his brother David, the heir of the oldest royal house in Europe, is dragged by horses to the Shrewsbury High Cross to die the terrible death that the judgment of the Parliament that has sat in Shrewsbury has now for the first time adjudged a "rebel" against England's crown to suffer.

The men of Shrewsbury are now for a century to have respite from war's alarms. For many a year they watch the conquered Welshmen crowd through the open gates to sell their wool and pull wry faces at the sermons in which Franciscan and Dominican who have found homes within their walls rebuke their vices. But the fifteenth century sees "dangers hour revived again". Shrewsbury has sent her legion to place Bolingbroke on the throne, for she loved Richard the Redeless little, seeing what mischief his light-fingered Cheshire archers have wrought in the burgh, what time his Grace held in the old town that curious Parliament which in four days made an end for a time of the liberties of England.

Bitter cause have these Salopians to-day to curse their treason. Again their gates are barred for fear of the Welsh armies which Owen Glyndwr (whom in former times Shrewsbury has known as the genial squire of Sycarth on Offa's Dyke and Glyndyfrdwy below Castle Dinas Brân, who ordered many a cask of her good ale to quench the thirst of his wandering bards; but who thanks to Bolingbroke's injustice is now Prince of Wales by the grace of God) sends year after year under the red dragon flag to waste the plains of Shropshire. To-day four armies seem to be converging on the town and on their speed seems to rest not only the fate of Shrewsbury, but of England. The armies are those of Prince Hal, whose headquarters have long been in Shrewsbury town, of his father the usurper, of Harry Hotspur and Owen Glyndwr. Prince Hal flushed with victory, for he has carried the torch of war into Merioneth and left Glyndwr's manor-houses smoking ruins, is the first to arrive. The King is the second and when Hotspur and Douglas, their north-
erners' ranks swelled with the dread Cheshire archers and the Welshmen of Powysland, catch their first view of Shrewsbury Castle, they see the royal standard waving from its towers. But where was the fourth army?

In after days poets sang that Glyndwr was kept from the field by "wizard's dream or potent spell". History shows the Welsh chief and his host in these fateful days away in far-off Carmarthenshire beleaguering the old royal castle of Dynevor. At least when Hotspur called a halt by the Berwick woodlands which fringe on Shrewsbury town, he knew that the way to his Welsh ally and Mortimer was barred and that the red dragon of Cambria was not to wave on the stricken field by Richard's banner of the white hart. And the leader's brow was sad, for prophecy had said that he should die at Berwick, and he cried that his plough was drawing to its last furrow. But none the less boldly did he advance to the fight in Bull field where for many an hour by Shrewsbury clock raged "one of the worst battles that ever came to Inglande, and unkindest". Next day the burghers of Shrewsbury vowed many a votive taper, when they saw dead Hotspur's corpse laid out by their High Cross. For many a day Glyndwr's bands will levy blackmail on Salop's soil; but none the less the fight is over. And the grey Battlefield Church, where for years they sang masses for the souls of the victims of Shrewsbury's field, still looks proudly over the low-lying Shropshire meads, and bears witness to the victory that destroyed the last dream of an independent Wales and a kingdom of Northumbria. Yet when you mention Shrewsbury field to the patriotic Englishman of to-day, he thinks of Falstaff and smiles.

We may here think but for a moment of the deeds that Shrewsbury wrought for the White Rose. Richard of York in effigy stands in a niche in her market hall to-day and it was Shrewsbury that bade his son Edward Earl of March God-speed when he left her walls for Mortimer's Cross and a kingdom.

But now the land groans under the usurper Crookback, and again a Welsh army is marching beneath the Red Dragon of Glyndwr to Shrewsbury town. Henry of Richmond is hastening to try his right with Richard, and behind Richmond come the serried ranks of Dynevor and Powys, under the banner of Rhys ap Thomas. In accord with ancient usage the gates of Shrewsbury are locked and the portcullis raised. The head bailiff, "a stout wise gentleman", talks big and one anxious night does Henry pass in the hamlet of Forton without the gates. But next day the bailiff's scruples are put at rest, and through the open gates of the town rides the Welsh Prince into streets strewn with flowers. That night, while the red dragon waves over the town, Henry rests in one of the finest of those half-timbered houses that are still the glory of Shrewsbury. Next morning he is on horseback riding amid the first Salopian cheers that ever a Welsh prince heard to Bosworth and a throne.

The entrance of Henry into Shrewsbury ends its feudal story. For its brilliant life in the sixteenth century, when its great school, which in its early days had Philip Sidney and Fulk Greville among its pupils, began its career, let our readers turn to Mr. Auden's fascinating book. Let him also tell the story of its last siege and its latter-day decline. To-day Shrewsbury, which has failed to grow as a manufacturing centre, or even to use its antiquities so as to attract the tourist, is but an old-world country town. Even its school has been taken from it; only its "hunt ball" remains. Yet here as in the days of yore come the Welshmen to weave political plots, or construct educational Utopias. It is in truth their natural trysting-place, and one is led to wonder whether Salopian pride will not some day yield to geographical destiny, and Shrewsbury enter into a new sphere of fame as the capital of Wales.

BRIDGE.

THE PLAY OF THE DEALER (CONTINUED).

THE strongest weapon which the dealer possesses in a No Trump game is his power of making a long suit good by finessing, or by giving away the first trick in it. When he holds ace, king, and three others of a suit in one hand, and two small ones in the other, he should lead a small one from either hand and allow his opponents to win the trick. When he gets in again, in either hand, he will make four tricks in that

suit if the cards lie evenly. This is very elementary, but some players are very loth to give away a certain trick, even with the prospect of making two or three extra ones by so doing.

In most No Trump hands the dealer will have one strong hand and a weak one and he must be very careful to utilise his card or cards of entry in the weak hand to the best advantage. It is no use to lead from the weak hand up to an ace, queen, knave suit without another card of entry. If the finesse succeeds, he is no better off as regards establishing the suit. In such a case the one entry card should be utilised for some other purpose, say to lead up to a guarded king, where it may do practical good. When leading from weakness up to an ace, queen, 10, suit, the double finesse should always be taken, unless two tricks in that suit are all that are required to win the game. If the queen is put on and the king wins it, another finesse has to be taken, and if the queen wins the trick, the king and knave both remain in, and one of them must make; if the 10 is put on the first round it may draw the king, in which case the suit is established, or it may happen that both the king and knave are to the right of the strong hand, in which case neither of them will make. If the king and knave are both over the strong hand, they must both make.

Holding ace, queen and small ones in one hand and the knave in the other, or with ace, knave and small ones in one hand and the queen in the other, it is a mistake, although a very common one, to lead the honour from the weak hand, as by so doing one trick in the suit must be lost however the cards lie. A small one should be led from the weak hand, and the ace, queen, or ace, knave should be finessed in the strong hand. In this way if the king singly guarded is on the right side every trick in the suit can be won, and if the king is on the wrong side the weak hand is left with a very useful card of re-entry.

The leading a queen up to a suit headed by the ace without holding the knave as well comes under the same category, and is a still worse mistake. With ace, 8, 6, 2 in one hand and queen, 7 in the other, the only possible chance of making two tricks in the suit is to lead a small one from the ace hand, in the hope of finding the king on the right of the queen.

Another bad finesse is with queen, knave, 10 and others in one hand and the ace singly guarded in the other. The only result of leading the queen and finessing will be effectually to block the suit four times out of five. It is much better to play the ace and a small one, allowing the king to make, and the suit is then established.

It is generally better to take a finesse on the second round of a suit rather than on the first. Thus, with ace, 7, 4 in one hand, and king, knave, 9, 2 in the other, it is better to lead the ace and then a small one up to the finesse of king, knave, rather than to lead a small one first and to take the finesse on the first round.

Entry cards in the weak hand are very important. The dealer should note carefully, at the beginning of the hand, how many possible or likely entries he has in his weak hand, and he must be careful not to waste them. Sometimes he can make an extra entry card in the weak hand by throwing away a high card from the other hand or by underplaying. Suppose the dealer has ace, queen, 9, 2 of diamonds, and his dummy has the knave and 3 only. If he is anxious to get his dummy in he should lead a small diamond and trust to the king being on his left, in which case the knave must make. Again, if he has the same hand of diamonds and his dummy has knave and two small ones, he should lead the queen from his own hand, and then, if the king does not appear, he should continue with a small one. If he were to lead out his ace, and queen, the king would be certain to be held up and dummy's knave would have no possible chance of making.

It should always be borne in mind that the dealer has one certain trick in any suit of which he holds the knave in one hand, and either the king or queen in the other, provided that one of the honours, no matter which, is doubly guarded and that the suit is opened by his opponents and not by himself. If he holds queen, 2 in one hand and knave, 4, 3 in the other, there is no combination of the cards which can prevent his winning

one trick in the suit provided that his opponents lead the first round of it.

It is a well-known axiom of bridge that every fresh suit opened by the defenders in a No Trump game is a distinct advantage to the dealer, therefore the dealer should force them to open fresh suits whenever he can. The simplest instance of this is when he has one losing card of a suit left, and there is one in against him, it will often pay him better to put his opponent in with his losing card than to open a fresh suit himself.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FAILURE OF THE VOLUNTARY SYSTEM.

V.—COMPULSORY SERVICE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—We are told that the people of England won't stand conscription. The question has never been laid completely before them, with its pros and cons, and until this has been done it is idle to talk of their decision. It has never been explained to them that conscription would be not only a great instrument of national defence, but the best school of physical training and moral discipline. Nor have the causes of the great increase of our army estimates been clearly exposed to them. How many of them understand that the great cause of the length and cost of the Boer war, with its frightful waste of life, was our own unreadiness? Mob-orators rant about the liberty of the subject, but they do not so far deviate into sense as to remind their hearers that the liberty of the subject is contingent upon the independence of the State. A successful attack upon us to-morrow might conceivably sweep Sovereign and subject alike into a state of dependence not far removed from servitude. It would be solely for the purpose of ensuring them a continuance of the liberty they now enjoy that the State would call upon her citizens to devote a small fraction of their lives to protect her integrity and independence. "Whatever be the cost of this glorious liberty", says Montesquieu, "we must be content to pay it to heaven".

But the Volunteers are a sufficient defence for these islands, it is said. The whole history of war proves that decisive results cannot be obtained with bodies of undisciplined men, however great their goodwill and courage; and the Volunteers are not, and from their constitution cannot be, a disciplined force. The great soldiers of the past unanimously agree that discipline is the most necessary element of success. For example, Frederic the Great said, "Men are not soldiers until they are disciplined". A tunic and helmet no more make a soldier than a wig and gown make a lawyer, or a cope and alb a theologian. There could be no appeal against the judgment of great soldiers on discipline, even were they unsupported by eminent thinkers; and there is an ample supply of such support. "See", says Mill, "what a figure rude nations . . . have made against civilised ones from Marathon downwards. Why? Because discipline is more powerful than numbers, and discipline, that is perfect co-operation, is an attribute of civilisation. . . . Co-operation, like other difficult things, can be learnt only by practice". Here lies the weak point of the Volunteer force. They have not the time to learn discipline "by practice", and it can be learnt in no other way. "Discipline we call a kind of miracle", says Carlyle. "Is it not miraculous how one man moves hundreds of thousands; each unit of whom, it may be, loves him not, and singly fears him not, yet has to obey him, to go hither and thither, to march and halt, to give death and even to receive it, as if a Fate had spoken".

Yours obediently, H. W. L. HIME, Lieut.-Col.

THE COMING EDUCATION BILL.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

The Athenæum, 4 April.

SIR,—It is to be hoped that the forthcoming Education Bill will contain one provision, which might be supported by all parties, and which does not raise the

religious question of which we hear so much. I refer to a provision that the managers of all schools shall be appointed by the local education authority instead of being elected by the ratepayers. Anyone who has had experience of popularly elected bodies in small country places must know how useless they are, and how efficiency is the last thing that is taken into consideration in their election. A case came within my own knowledge some years ago which illustrates this. At the time of the passing of the Education Act of 1870, a new school was needed in a small parish in the West of England. The rector called a meeting of the parishioners, and told them that the responsibility for providing the necessary accommodation was now thrown on them, and that he could only bear his share. They declined to do anything. The law took its course, and a school board was duly elected of which the rector was not a member. It at once resolved "us don't want no new school," and I believe that was the only thing it ever did. The Department used its power of displacing this popularly elected body, and substituted a nominated board which did its work. The traces of this action survived in the fact that until the passing of the Act of 1902 this parish had a board of seven instead of five members.

You may perhaps think this instance of the effect of popular control worth placing on record.

Yours, &c.

BARTON R. V. MILLS.

"CHARACTER OF RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Cambridge, Mass. 12 March, 1906.

SIR,—Permit me to correct one or two of the misstatements in the notice of my "Character of Renaissance Architecture" published in your issue of 10 February. Your critic remarks that: "Professor Moore has a wonderful faculty of finding resemblances between the most unlikely buildings; he thinks the design of Santa Maria delle Grazie at Milan may have been by Bramante, because it resembles Bramante's design for the dome of St. Peter's. A comparison of Professor Moore's own illustration will convince even a layman that there is not the smallest resemblance between the two." But I do not affirm a resemblance. What I say (page 142) is: "The encircling arcade of the top suggests the encircling colonnade of the same architect's subsequent design for the dome of St. Peter's", which is a very different thing. Again the reviewer affirms: "He (the author) does not mention Bullant or recognise the existence of the great French architecture of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries". But Bullant is mentioned on page 192, and his portico at Ecouen is commented on elsewhere. I, of course, do not discuss the French architecture of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, because my book treats of the architecture of the Renaissance, and not that of more recent times, except in England, where the Renaissance influences were belated.

A reviewer is at liberty to dissent from an author's thesis, but his adverse opinions ought to be supported by some rational arguments if he expects them to carry any weight. This critic's strictures suggest a bias incompatible with fairness.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

CHARLES H. MOORE.

IRISH FOLK MUSIC.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Enniscorthy Cathedral.

SIR,—While thanking Mr. John F. Runciman for his complimentary remarks on my "History of Irish Music", I beg to point out a serious inaccuracy of his in reference to Tom Moore. In his able article—written under the above heading, apropos of my book—Mr. Runciman does an unmerited injustice to Moore as follows: "Most of the music he adapted to his words is drawn from any source rather than an Irish one. 'The Loves of St. Jerome' (if that is the correct title) is set to a theme from Beethoven's funeral march

sonata". Now, as a matter of fact, Moore's "Irish Melodies" are all adapted to genuine Irish tunes; and Mr. Runciman is explicitly referring to his "Irish Songs". As a lifelong student of Irish folk music, I have no hesitation in saying that Moore's settings of the "Irish Melodies"—faulty though many of them are—are drawn from old Irish sources. "St. Jerome's Love" is the fanciful title given by Moore in his "Sacred Songs" to a lyric entitled "Who is the Maid?" but Moore takes care to mark it as to be sung to an air by Beethoven, and he has a footnote explaining that the lines were suggested by a passage in one of St. Jerome's letters.

As to Mr. Yeats, I fully agree with Mr. Runciman. In ten years, or less, Mr. Yeats and his school will have disappeared for ever. But I venture to think that, with all his shortcomings, Moore in his "Irish Melodies" will live, though much of his poetry is already forgotten.

Early next year I hope to issue in the "Music Story Series" (Walter Scott Publishing Company) my "Story of the Bagpipe", which I trust will enlighten Mr. Runciman as to the history of the Irish War pipes and the Uilleann (Union) pipes. Suffice it to mention that the Irish warpipers were effectively heard at Calais, Cr cy, Orl ans, Boulogne, and at Fontenoy.

I remain yours very truly,

WM. H. GRATTAN FLOOD.

[Perhaps my remarks regarding Moore were exaggerated, but from whatever source he drew his melodies they have to my ear little that is Irish in character. The story of "St. Jerome's love" was told first, I think, either by J. W. Davison or Sir George Grove; but the full story is even more curious than either can have supposed. As for the bagpipes I shall gladly read Mr. Flood's account of them, but I do not think he will disagree with my statement that the harp and not the pipes has always been considered the Irish national instrument.—J. F. R.]

JOURNALISTIC EUPHUISMS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Horsham, 3 April, 1906.

SIR,—I read with pleasure your condemnation of journalese on Saturday. I have often wondered why a town hall can never be built but must always be "erected"; why a church must always be "a sacred edifice"; why you cannot turn a corner without "negotiating" it; why you cannot play a solo without "rendering" it; why you cannot go to a wedding without "attending" it; why you cannot shoot a goal at football without "placing the sphere in the rigging"; why you cannot be married to any but a "charming bride"; and why you cannot die without your death "taking place".

I am, yours faithfully,

E. CLEPHAN PALMER.

PLANTS FOR TOWN GARDENS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

11, 12 and 13 King Street, Covent Garden,
London, W.C. 3 April, 1906.

SIR,—We have just had our attention drawn to a remark in your notice of our "Hardy Perennial Catalogue" in your issue of 24 March. The basis on which we select plants for town gardens is in the first place the selection of plants preferably that die down entirely during winter, and in the second place, plants having smooth persistent foliage. Plants in town gardens generally suffer from the effects of smoky atmosphere and it stands to reason that those plants that die down during winter having a fresh start with new foliage in spring stand a much better chance than those that have to stand the smoky winter, and the smooth-leaved plants will survive a sooty atmosphere naturally better than a rougher-leaved plant, the pores of which will soon get choked.

We think the above note may be of some interest to your readers.

Yours faithfully,

BARR AND SONS.

REVIEWS.

A MODERN BUCCANEER.

"The Life of Sir Richard Burton." By Thomas Wright.
2 vols. London: Everett. 1906. 24s.

THE Life of Sir Richard Burton leaves the reader in a kind of stupor; the record is almost incredibly romantic. He was a soldier, a traveller, an explorer, a linguist, an anthropologist, an ethnologist, an official. His published works extend to over a hundred volumes. He was a kind of amiable demon; he was a born romancer and boaster, a superstitious atheist; he thanked God he had committed every sin in the Decalogue, and there seems little reason to doubt it; yet he was tender-hearted, loyal, a philanthropist, a devoted friend, a lover of liberty. He probably possessed more curious knowledge, in the technical sense, than any man who has ever lived. It is impossible not to admire him, and possible in many respects to esteem him. His biographer indeed claims for him that he was one of the greatest, noblest, and most fearless of Englishmen, and Mr. Swinburne wrote a majestic eulogy of him. Burton seems like a man born out of his due time. In early days he would have been a Viking, or a mighty warrior. In the time of Elizabeth he would have been a tremendous old sea-dog. He was a sort of a Berserker, with the addition of an amazing linguistic gift, but his books are shapeless and ill-digested masses of material. He had very little literary skill; his poetry is as a rule grotesque, and he was a frank plagiarist, as his biographer shows. He was in reality most at his ease in a strange and hostile land, holding his life in his hand. Indeed, to illustrate his temerity and outspokenness, it is recorded that he once listened at a dinner-party to a long harangue from Mr. Gladstone on Oriental affairs, and uttered an emphatic and unqualified contradiction of every statement that Mr. Gladstone had made. Yet he was not a leader of men; his temper was ungovernable, he was inconsiderate and unbusinesslike, and with small powers of organisation. The portrait prefixed to the volumes shows him in the prime of life, a grim fierce man, with a strong satyr-like jaw, seamed and scarred, with stiff hair and a ragged beard. The face is at once impressive and repellent, and there is a dangerous light in the eye.

This extraordinary life began in 1821, in England, in wealth and comfort. Burton came of a distinguished stock. His adventures began at Tours, when during a cholera epidemic he stole out of his nursery at night, to help the men who were engaged in the ghastly task of collecting the corpses of the dead. He was brought up in France and Italy, and sent to Oxford with a knowledge of half a dozen modern languages, a dare-devil young scamp. He was speedily expelled, and entered the Indian army.

In India he plunged into the study of Oriental ideas and habits. He rode on crocodiles, he learnt the Koran by heart, he practised the mystical religion of the Sufi sect, he studied the mysteries of the Brahmins, he explored the tenets of Mohammedanism; he kept a shop disguised as a half-caste; eventually he was invalided home; but he could not rest; and he now carried out one of his most amazing feats. Disguised as an Arab physician he visited Mecca, saw the Black Kaaba Stone and religiously embraced it, drank the holy water, and evaded suspicion successfully, when the least hint of his identity would have cost him his life. His thirst for adventure was insatiable; he explored Egypt, where he was bastinadoed; he penetrated through Somaliland to Harar, he had his face pierced from side to side by a javelin at Berbera. Then he flew off to the Crimea, where he drilled Bashibazouks, and made impudent suggestions to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. Then followed the great expedition of his life. He resigned his commission in the army, and in 1858, with Speke, reached Tanganyika. Burton conceived the idea that this lake was the source of the Nile; but Speke diverged to the Victoria Nyanza, had a serious difference with Burton, and, at the close of the expedition, slipped off to England, and announced his belief that the latter

lake was the real source of the Nile, thus gaining the credit of the discovery that was afterwards confirmed. Burton made no attempt to obtain recognition, but went off on a trip to Utah, and returning home married a Miss Isabel Arundall, a beautiful, foolish, unbalanced woman, a devoted Roman Catholic. The union was one of life-long happiness. By this time Burton had spent all his patrimony, and went off alone as Consul to Fernando Po, varying his official duties by a mission to Dahomey; then he became Consul in Brazil, and then at Damascus, a valuable post worth £1,200 a year; but he was superseded, owing to an ill-judged attempt to carry out certain reforms; and eventually in 1872 was appointed Consul at Trieste, where he spent the rest of his life, with frequent leave of absence from his duties. "Pay, pack, and follow", was one of his laconic messages to his wife. He was often in London, where in the summer, his extraordinary figure, habited in white duck, with a huge white hat, was familiar at the Athenæum.

All these expeditions had resulted in large clumsily written volumes; and writing now became the passion of Burton's life. He began by translating Camoens; he wrote a book on the use of the sword. He made friends with the great Orientalist, Mr. John Payne, who had translated the "Arabian Nights" in a limited edition. Burton undertook to produce a new translation, and had no scruple about transferring Mr. Payne's translation wholesale into his book, interspersing it with the clumsy archaisms which he loved. He was fond of such forms as "cere", "pight", "wox", "cramoisie" and "egromancy". He loved to write such sentences as "a garth right sheen", and "sore pains to gar me dree". Mr. Payne was a skilled scholarly translator, whereas Burton could not resist the temptation of garish and fantastic words. Yet Burton received the credit, and Mr. Payne with a rare delicacy effaced himself. By this time it is clear that Burton was the victim of a monomania. He called his work ethnological, and claimed to be writing in the interests of anthropological students. But the translation, and still more the notes which he added, are mainly pornographical. It seems clear that Burton's interest in the mysteries of Oriental vice was chiefly scientific. He maintained that he worked in the interests of truth, and that it was mere prudery to be wilfully ignorant of practices which play an obvious and important part in Oriental life. But on the other hand it may be fairly held in the interests of morals that such books reach others than scientific ethnologists, and that the majority of the people who read such literature have no exalted motive in view. The end of Burton's life was devoted to translating the less delicate Latin poets, and to preparing a version of a book written in the fifteenth century by Nafwâzi, called the "Scented Garden", a work of unparalleled obscenity, to which Burton added full illustrative notes. Though his health was rapidly failing, he devoted himself to this task with a kind of frenzy, rising early and working late. The end came in 1890; and shortly after his death Lady Burton—Burton had been made a K.C.M.G. in 1886—appalled at the character of the book, and claiming to be guided by an apparition of her husband demanding that it should be destroyed, burnt the whole of the manuscript, thereby sacrificing a pledged profit of six thousand guineas, though at the time she was much in want of money. It was an act of rare courage and high-mindedness. Lady Burton was wholly and entirely devoted to her husband, and the regret of a few ethnologists and a number of prurient pathologists are not for a moment to be weighed in the balance with the conspicuous service to morality that she thus rendered. Lady Burton had a profound belief in her husband's nobility and purity of spirit. The most serious admission she ever made against him was to say "I can quite believe that on occasions when no lady was present, Richard's conversation might have been startling".

And so ends this amazing life, a life of wild adventure and furious activity, overshadowed by a radical eccentricity, if not insanity. He lies at Mortlake, his wife by his side, in a strangely sculptured marble tomb, representing an Arab tent.

As for Mr. Thomas Wright's book, it does more credit to his industry than his literary skill. He has

worked in the Boswellian manner, and has amassed a rich harvest of details, anecdotes and gossip. The book, like many English biographies, would be very useful to anyone who undertook to write a life of Burton; but there is no attempt at portraiture, and no artistic selection of material. The real Burton is buried beneath a mass of trivial facts, and Mr. Wright appears in the character of the eulogist rather than in that of the critic. All may praise Mr. Wright's diligence, and be touched by his indiscriminate hero-worship, but we must none the less admit that he is a collector rather than a biographer, and his volumes can only be regarded in the light of a large scrap-book. The most that can be claimed for him is that he throws a great number of side-lights upon what was a singularly romantic career.

GENTLEMEN OF WALFORD.

"Walford's County Families, 1906." London: Spottiswoode and Co. 1906. 50s.

KING JAMES I., quoted with approval in "Walford's County Families", said that "the King, though he can make a noble, cannot make a gentleman". Had the royal author of "Eikon Basilike", if he was the author, said that "the King can confer a title" there would have been some sense in the first half of his statement, but as King James is dead, and no one else can explain what "noble" meant, the creative powers of the monarch must remain for ever a mystery, as the latter part of the sentence certainly does not tend to throw light upon his meaning. Some think the factor of time enters into the composition of a gentleman, others use it as a test and by the method of elimination prove him non-existent. The gentleman is supposed to improve with age, and in this resembles whisky as by law defined, but there is no pot-still to fall back upon for a first cause. A more popular test than time is "largesse", but that does not appear to be sufficiently scientific. Armorial bearings are not essential to—much less do they make—a gentleman, for at best they are only evidence of an individual's right to be considered one. Perplexity grows on proceeding to classification for, without complicating matters by introducing the gentleman of colour, who must not be confounded with the gentleman of coat armour, are there not the armorial gent, the independent gent, the professional gent, the commercial gent, and many another sort of gent? Fearn's remainders are nothing to them! The learned Camden is not of much assistance, "Gentlemen are either those in general who are of good families or they whom virtue or fortune have raised above the common level". This may account for some of the memorial tablets with which everyone is more or less familiar, but assuming Camden correct, numbers must go to the grave without the public recognition due to their status. An esquire is not so elusive a figure as a gentleman for there is the test of postal address to rely on. In Camden's dayesquires were supposed to be of five sorts, each differing in rank, but Camden is obsolete, and esquires are now ranged in two divisions, neither taking precedence of the other. The first consists of those who like to receive letters addressed "esquire", the second includes tailors and all other tradesmen who, whether they like or do not like to have their letters so addressed, have clients against whom large accounts are outstanding. This grouping possesses many advantages for compilers of dictionaries of upper ten thousands, and is particularly serviceable to any editor who sets out to chase that Will-o'-the-wisp a "County Family". No one would wish to dispute that "Individuals and families are continually crossing and recrossing the narrow line which severs the aristocracy from the commonalty" provided the line is drawn somewhere. After much search through "Walford" to discover the line by a procedure of induction, the only safe conclusion to arrive at is that the line itself is an unknown quantity, and that aristocracy and commonalty are words often used in a Pickwickian sense. The plea that "Bearing of Arms not of titles has ever been considered as the distinctive mark of true noblesse" is no justification for the existence of Walford's "Manual of the titled and un-

titled aristocracy" for even if "noblesse" were a word which could be properly interpreted "aristocracy" and aristocracy could be twisted to mean County Family, it would merely serve to prove that a Walford's County Family is not necessarily a County Family, nor a County Family necessarily a Walford's County Family.

A LOST PARLIAMENT.

"The Parliament of Scotland, its Constitution and Procedure, 1603-1707." By Charles Sanford Terry. Glasgow: MacLehose. 1905. 10s. net.

PROFESSOR TERRY'S object in writing this monograph has been to supplement, and in some respects to correct, two more general works of reference. Of these the first, in order of publication, is the short but useful essay of Mr. Rait on "The Scottish Parliament before the Union of the Crowns"; the other is the elaborate and learned work of Mr. Porritt on "The Unreformed House of Commons", in which a considerable amount of space is devoted to the history of Scottish representation. Of necessity these writers have dealt with the seventeenth century in no great detail. Professor Terry brings together a number of additional facts under such headings as "Composition and Numerical Strength", "Officials of the House", "Discipline", "Rules of Debate". He has also printed in full the Acts relating to his subject. It will however be a matter of more interest to ordinary readers that he has taken up the cudgels on behalf of a legislature which historians have generally agreed to treat with scant respect. He does not deny that the Scottish Parliament showed little independence before the union of the crowns. But he maintains that the seventeenth century witnessed a considerable improvement in the composition, the procedure, and the energy of the Estates. This improvement was rapid between 1641 and 1660; was not entirely checked by the reactionary government of the Restoration epoch; and recommenced immediately after the accession of William and Mary.

The facts which support this view are individually of no very striking character. But, when massed together, they tell a significant story. A few of them deserve special mention. For instance, there is a remarkable increase in the number of county members; fifteen out of thirty-three counties had never been represented, so far as our information goes, before 1603; but all are represented with more or less regularity between 1640 and 1707. There was a concurrent increase in the number of represented burghs, which rose from fifty to sixty-seven. The franchise in counties, though not in burghs, was remodelled by statutory enactments. The examination of disputed returns was taken from the Privy Council and vested in the Parliament. Thus the representative system was reformed in some most important particulars. The Estates were not yet as truly representative as our modern standards would require. But, if we compare the Estates with the English legislature of the same period, they formed at least as satisfactory a mouthpiece of national opinion. Their growing independence is attested in their successful attacks upon the system by which the whole work of deliberation and lawmaking was vested in a committee of Crown nominees. An Act of 1633 made the Lords of the Articles an elective body. Between 1641 and 1661 no Lords of the Articles were appointed. The Estates claimed and exercised the right of transacting all the business which pertained to them either in full session or in committees which were specially nominated for the purpose and strictly subordinated to the general body. From 1661 to 1689 there was a partial return to the old system. But the Act of 1633 held good; the Lords of the Articles were elected and not nominated; their powers were limited by the activity of elected committees of various kinds; and the right of discussing, even of amending, the bills prepared by the Lords of the Articles was jealously upheld. After the Revolution the Estates insisted upon abolishing the Lords of the Articles; and this time the triumph over the executive was lasting.

There was however a weakness in the Scottish Parliament which we think Professor Terry underrates when he claims that the Estates were no less efficient than the English Houses. The Estates formed sharply divided groups; no single group was strong enough to dominate the rest; and the rules of procedure seem to have been framed with the express object of preventing the growth of parties in our modern sense. It was difficult, apparently, for partisans to sit together, or to communicate in the course of the debates. The debates appear to have been less important than the more informal discussions held in committees; the result could hardly fail to be a neglect of wider issues and an excessive devotion to administrative detail. We suspect Professor Terry of regretting the legislative union. However this may be, he seems to have run into the other extreme from his predecessors. Signs of life are not altogether the same thing as a vigorous vitality; nor would any improvements of structure have eliminated the intensely parochial spirit which characterised the Estates even in the best period of their existence.

ETONIANA.

"Memories of Eton and King's." By W. C. Green. 2s. 6d. net. "Recollections of an Eton Colleger, 1898-1902." By C. H. M. Eton College: Spottiswoode. 1905. 5s. net.

THE Eton novel, which may be confidently expected as a continuation of the series of school novels recently published, will doubtless cause a flutter in Old Etonian circles; but the subject will be too esoteric to appeal to the general reader. Moreover it is as hard to write anything adequate about Eton as it is not to write anything at all; it is almost impossible to avoid tiresome technicalities and obvious personalities and at the same time to describe vividly the excitement of getting a colour, for instance, or the petty jealousies or the joys of "socking" or the boredom of trials. The whole thing is in a different atmosphere from that breathed by the fiction-loving public. Where there is no sense of morality, the motives of action seem insufficient.

The middle-aged mind can remember that in school-days it was admirable to break a school rule and rare to break through etiquette, but cannot face the fact that the only motto likely to influence a schoolboy for good is "It is not done here". The ordinary code of morality is simply not recognised. And therefore a novel deprived of the feminine element and based on an entirely odd view of life is necessarily a prodigious achievement for the author.

Such is not the object of Mr. W. C. Green nor of C. H. M., whose short reminiscences dealing with Eton in 1850 and 1900 appeared simultaneously. The former writes as it were in the ingle-nook, ruminating in a prolix and haphazard but very delightful manner on the figures and events connected with his long Eton life from 1836 to 1860 and his overlapping Cambridge years from 1851 to 1858 and 1863 to 1871. The memoirs will find many interested readers among his friends and younger contemporaries—for Mr. Green is the patriarch of Eton memories—and afford to the casual reader a charming picture of the early days of New Buildings and of a Colleger's life under Keate and Hawtrey.

C. H. M. is more ambitious and declares that his object is to "interest the reader and show him that College is not the 'Dotheboys Hall' that some people will insist on making out, despite all sayings to the contrary". He writes for the general public, for anxious parents who like to know how their boys are treated; and he deals with his subject extensively and readably. It is clear that any inaccuracies—several glaring mistakes occur—and any clumsy passages or stupid sentiments are attributable to the difficulties of correcting proofs on the high seas where the author composed his reminiscences. Conceivably other old Collegers may deplore the racy or rather nautical style in which the descriptions are written; but all those readers to whom the information is new will find the intricate routine of the ordinary Colleger

lucidly and easily revealed. If some intelligent Oppidan would exert himself so far as to write a similar book about life in the houses, he might contribute important evidence for or against the prevalent indictment of the "Average Etonian".

Mr. Green has one great advantage over C. H. M. He can refer to the familiar characters of his day by name: an anecdote loses most of its flavour if one cannot designate its subject; and though Porter Blake is only too delighted to see his name in print, "my tutor" would resent any allusion to himself as a gross impertinence. Consequently C. H. M. is obliged throughout to veil his personal reminiscences with pseudonyms—thinly indeed, but tediously. One desires something more imaginary or more unreserved; the compromise is unsatisfying. C. H. M.'s recollection of minutiae is astonishing, and if only they were absolutely correct in every detail they would form a very valuable record of the College of 1900 for the benefit of our descendants in 2000.

One interesting link connects these two volumes. It is the little secret door in the end "stall" of Chamber which C. H. M. mentions as being closed and said to be haunted by Dr. Keate. In Mr. Green's time, when there was no Master in College and the long heavy oaken bedsteads were not divided by partitions, it was usual for the headmaster to parade Chamber occasionally at night; and many old Collegers can remember the vision of Hawtrey in cap and gown appearing through that little door, preceded by Finstock his butler, who was discreet and considerate enough to rattle the key loudly in the door for some time before he entered, lantern in hand: needless to say the candles stuck on the ends of the beds were hastily blown out, and every boy was sound asleep.

Times change and we change. With Mr. Green we stroll up and down the gallery in the Cloisters, meeting famous figures and meditating academically; with C. H. M. we are transported to a busier life, to a journalistic atmosphere of noise and bustle and laboratories and tea-rooms. But the later author is fully conscious of the imperishable under-current which makes Eton life what it is, which is part of the grey buildings and the elms and limes: for him too Eton offers the ideal school life, and he tells parents that their boys will "work hard, play hard, eat hard, and sleep hard". Few impersonal reflections and few sentimental extravagances distract the reader from the quiet pleasant picture of the scholars of the old and the new generations, leading the same unconscious lives of routine under somewhat changing conditions.

THE MASTERY OF COLLOQUIAL FRENCH.

"First Steps in Colloquial French." By Albert Thouaille. London: Blackie. 1906. 2s.

DESPITE the preaching of Gouin, the declamation of many other reformers, the establishment of numerous rational schools of languages, in the majority of schools modern languages continue to be taught in much the same fashion as they were taught to us and our forefathers. Everywhere methods of education are being improved, being made more reasonable—or perhaps we should say less idiotic—but modern languages, especially French and German, are drilled into children on lines scarcely distinguishable from those followed in a dame's village school where babies acquire the gentle arts of alphabet and spelling. To learn rules by rote, long before their significance and usefulness are made apparent by practice in their application; to learn words by rote, linking English word to foreign word in the memory by connotation of sound instead of association of ideas—these are the appallingly dreary tasks set before the aspirant to proficiency. And the result is that the majority of English women speak, say French, badly and with fatal boarding-school fluency, and most men whose calling demands it have to learn the language afresh after leaving school. The schools of languages are kept alive by clerks who have to master in their twenties what they ought to have had the opportunity of acquiring in their teens.

This may be platitudinous, but it is a platitude the full force of which has yet to be recognised by hundreds, thousands, of fathers who are toiling to earn the money to give their children a serviceable education. In past times our general ignorance of alien tongues did not greatly matter. Sons went into business, a domain as yet uninvaded by foreign competitors: they need not, as to-day they must, carry the commercial war into the enemy's territory. Daughters treated French as an "accomplishment", like piano-strumming and water-colour painting; and if their tenses and genders were all wrong and their constructions British to the core, no one was a penny the worse and their French friends were afforded a little innocent amusement. To-day all that is changed. French and German are becoming daily more necessary to all business men; and they are not less necessary to the crowds of young women ambitious of earning an independent livelihood. With the serious demand for languages have come some few faint-hearted attempts to meet it; but on the whole the improvement is very slight, and boys and girls still waste their time and their parents' money at school only to find later on that they have given their foreign rivals several years start. They are handicapped at the moment of beginning life; while they are getting ready to start they see better equipped people forging far ahead of them. Those who protest against this state of things and advocate an alteration are by no means kicking at an open door. The posters on our London hoardings and in the railway stations and the flourishing condition of so many schools of languages prove that a change is wanted both in elementary and higher-grade schools.

As to French, teachers must first realise that the language should be studied for use and not for ornament. We don't suppose any better system obtains in German than in English schools, but the business is tackled seriously, as much time and energy are devoted to it as to any other branch of study, with the result that the German boy on leaving school has a fair grip generally of English, and after a short residence in this country can speak with fair fluency. The perfunctory hour or so per week is time wasted. That altered, there arises the question, if French is to be of practical use to anyone, must the aim be to write or read or speak it? Emphatically, we say, in the first place to speak it. In business one who can only read, or even one who can write, is useless in an office; and if he begins by reading and writing the chances are that for life, or at any rate for a long time, he will speak a pseudo-literary French or mere book-exercises. Colloquial everyday French he will never get to know by reading; there are only two ways of mastering it. The better plan we will deal with presently; the next best is to learn it in this country with the aid of a teacher and such a primer as is now before us. This book is frankly admitted by Mr. Thouaille to be based on Gouin's teaching. Instead of learning the rules of grammar and endeavouring to acquire a vocabulary first, the student learns to talk French by *talking it*. Only when he can talk it does he consolidate what he has learnt, convert an heterogeneous mass of words and phrases into a rational knowledge of the language, by learning the rules which he has been unconsciously applying all the time. That is to say, he learns French as he learnt his mother-tongue when he was a baby. He does not learn by associating words arbitrarily with other words but, roughly speaking, associating nouns with things or persons, verbs with acts or statements regarding the conditions of things, and phrases with facts. In Mr. Thouaille's primer, for example, the use of English being rigorously barred, the teacher begins with the phrase "Le livre est sur la table", indicating his meaning by the needful signs and gestures; then he proceeds to "read a page", "I turn over and read another page", and finally "I close the book". In lessons of progressive difficulty all manner of things and subjects are dealt with in this fashion, the grammar being left until later.

This is the best system for young students—indeed it is the only practicable one unless parents take to sending their children abroad to school, a plan that has its advantages and disadvantages. But for grown-ups Gouin's method is slow and in its application it may

be found too rigid. It is very well to learn to speak a tongue as a baby does; but after we have passed the baby stage it is ridiculous to deny ourselves the advantages of experience and a trained intellect simply because a baby learns without them. If the adult who wishes to master French has already a smattering, many of Mr. Thouaille's lessons are either useless or not worth spending much time on. The average boy on leaving school knows the meaning and gender of "livre" and "table", he knows his "le", "la", "est", "sur", &c. He may also be presumed to have a memory which can carry a few seemingly arbitrary rules without much trouble, and the learning of a couple of hundred words (without being particular about genders) ought not to trouble him. Grant that he has this smattering, memory and intelligence, there is a much quicker way of learning French than Gouin's or any other method. Your "first step" to learning colloquial French would be a step towards the nearest railway station whence you could depart for France. Armed with a good grammar—and Otto is as good as any—and any good dictionary, you should make your way to some small town where the local accent is not reckoned too villainous, and there settle down for a few weeks. The inevitable conversation with the landlord would ensue and at once you are master of the situation. You are master and pupil at once, when you know a thing you need not stand by impatiently while it is being explained to you, when you don't know it you have only to ask, and in case of utter defeat your memory will carry the recalcitrant word or phrase until you can consult dictionary or grammar. While in the act of finding out its meaning the odds are you will find, and finding learn, and learning understand, some rule that will help you in a dozen or more similar difficulties. In a provincial town one soon makes acquaintances and in a couple of days you will have a dozen masters all unconsciously teaching you colloquial French. You have the advantage of choosing the subject, and you can easily change it when it does not suit your purpose; you pose questions and hearing the answers learn exactly the idioms in common use. The range and flexibility of these lessons far exceed those of set lessons done from books; also, there are in common use in France numberless words and sayings, harmless enough in themselves, that have not yet found their way into any book. While these lessons are going forward neither the grammar nor the dictionary need be neglected. The irregular verbs should be studied bit by bit and used as soon as learnt; rules should be read and assimilated by immediate application in conversation or by the simple process of constructing and speaking sentences in which they may be observed or broken. The morning run through the newspaper will keep the dictionary open, and the words learnt should be used in talk as soon as possible.

All this is, we know, simply a modification of the Gouin method. But for those who are not absolutely beginners and yet cannot freely speak—that is, for the average educated Englishman—it is infinitely more rapid and more comprehensive in its results. Moreover, Gouin it as we will we never learn to talk any tongue until we have been forced to talk it for some time. We are convinced that the plan of going to France to learn French is cheaper and quicker than that of joining classes in London. Not that we under-rate our schools of languages, which are doing admirable preparatory work for those who do not know the elements and equally admirable advanced work for those who cannot for one reason or another leave the country; nor do we undervalue such a book as Mr. Thouaille's, which ought to be in use throughout the country. Merely we have described what, from experience and observation, we regard as the only method of mastering colloquial French.

NOVELS.

"The Way of the Spirit." By H. Rider Haggard. London: Hutchinson. 1906. 6s.

"Should or should not circumstances be allowed to alter moral cases?" is the question that Mr. Rider Haggard has avowedly set for solution in his novel.

The inventor of a puzzle has the right to his own answer, but those who follow with interest his attempts to extricate its entanglements may possibly experience some measure of disappointment when the actual solution of the problem is presented to them. In "The Way of the Spirit" one may congratulate the hero and the heroine on their certainty of everlasting bliss, which they will find as "a glorious issue of their long probation in personal survival and re-union". The mere novel-reader on the other hand is apt to deplore the failure of present happiness in the case of the deserving, and sighs to find that from an earthly point of view the covers of the book close on a scene where the designs of the unrighteous have prospered and the wicked are likely to flourish. It is the way of men to discover in the ultimate triumph of purely imaginary persons over purely imaginary sufferings a certain mitigation of its own mundane miseries. To the elucidation of his problem Mr. Rider Haggard has somewhat subordinated the interest of his story, the scene of which is laid in England and Egypt on the see-saw principle. In his characterisation he has depicted his puppets as uncompromisingly black and white as the various pieces of the chessboard. All the persons of the drama represent integrally elemental ideas, and, while the villain is solidly villainous to his core, the hero, almost "too good to be true", and grimly stern in his self-imposed asceticism and in his well-nigh truculent denunciation of the pleasant ways of life, out-Galahads Galahad. But the old manner is not altogether forgotten, and there will be found a spirited and admirably vivid description of a fight which should satisfy the most insatiate of gore. "The Way of the Spirit" trembles perhaps somewhat perilously on the razor-edge that separates the kingdom of the sublime from the confines of the ridiculous, but the evident earnestness of the author rescues it from the ever-ready dangers of the commonplace. There are many who will appreciate both its premisses and its conclusion. By others perhaps Mr. Rider Haggard will be preferred rather as the skilful weaver of romance than as the performer, however dexterous, of psychological dissection.

"Curayl." By Una N. Silberrad. London: Constable. 1906. 6s.

For quite inadequate reasons, Anthony Luttrell, an otherwise sincere and irreproachable person, masquerades as a clergyman, and thereby involves himself in all kinds of difficulties, including an epidemic of typhus, and a death-bed commission to deliver a mysterious packet to an unknown woman. With an obtuseness, exacted we suppose by the exigencies of the plot, that almost amounts to ingenuity he fails in discovering the owner of the packet until the last chapter, but the interest so ably excited at the beginning of the story has by that time quite flickered out, unable to survive through long descriptions of nursing operations and cremations and various unnecessary and absurd complications of an ill-constructed plot.

"Lads of the Fancy." By George Bartram. London: Duckworth. 1906. 6s.

There is plenty and to spare of stir and adventure in this romance of the eighteenth century—fights, races, two distinct love affairs, a Gretna Green elopement, thefts and murders, and villainies of all kinds brought to nought by a somewhat modern Sherlock Holmes-like detective. The other characters are of the approved eighteenth-century pattern, blustering and obstinate guardians, and defiant lovers or amorists as the author prefers to call them—and the dialogue is of a correspondingly high-flown and romantic type.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

Years ago it was predicted by publishers and booksellers alike that the reprint trade could no longer be profitable as the market was already largely overstocked. Yet new series are constantly appearing whilst many volumes are added to the old ones. Messrs. Dent's "Every Man's Library" is one

of the more remarkable of the new series. We have received thirteen volumes of this series which is edited by Ernest Rhys, and of which the first fifty have now been issued. Among the volumes are Andersen's "Fairy Tales", Boswell's "Life of Johnson", Lytton's "Harold", Trollope's "Barchester Towers", Reade's "Cloister on the Hearth", a selection of Browning's "Poems" and Froude's "Essays in Literature and History". The volumes are well edited and introduced by various authorities. The printing and paper are sound and the price—1s. net—as low, we should say, as that of any other series, certainly any series of equal merit, in the book market. Messrs. Collins have added four volumes to their "Handy Illustrated Pocket Novels", works by Thackeray and Scott. These vary somewhat in type, but they are cheap enough at 1s. net. Messrs. Routledge continue to issue new editions of the "Muses' Library" which they took over from Messrs. Laurence and Bullen. Chatterton, Clough, Ingelow, Crashaw and "Lyra Germanica" are recent additions. From Mr. Murray we have received the "Poetical Works of Lord Byron", edited by E. H. Coleridge. It is a useful volume published at 6s. net.

"The Country Press" (Kensington) publish a new edition—"the author's"—of "The Fern Paradise" by Francis George Heath, 5s. net. The book is an old favourite and circulates in America as well as in England. It is hard to identify ferns by any illustrations in a book, and we doubt whether those in "The Fern Paradise" will greatly help, but they are quite up to the average. The book contains a good many of Birket Foster's drawings. Mrs. Rosamond Watson's "The Heart of a Garden" (De La More Press, 7s. 6d. net) is prettily written and attractively produced. Mrs. Watson has a sensitive style and is full of pleasant gardening knowledge. The illustrations are in half-tone from garden photographs, except the frontispiece, which is from an original drawing.

"Revue des Deux Mondes." 1 Avril. 3 fr.

We have become almost surfeited with essays on and sketches of Japan, but M. André Bellessort always gives us something far removed from the conventional accounts of Japanese travel which in this country are always eulogistic and therefore rarely true. In this number we have a further instalment of his "Japanese Days and Nights" and it supplies a series of most striking pictures of the more primitive side of Japanese life which still goes on almost unimpaired under the surface of the modern civilisation. Perhaps one of its most remarkable features is the essentially democratic feeling always latent and often in evidence. He gives an example in the fate of two noblemen whom he saw imprisoned in an iron cage for having shown cowardice before the enemy, they had been officers in a crack regiment and had been condemned by their subordinates. There was no suspicion of unfairness, but they had declined to commit suicide when they had the chance. The extraordinary thing was that the governor of the prison should have desired to show these unfortunates to a European, but the reason probably was that he relished the chance of inflicting a further humiliation on them. A European would have spared both parties. The whole paper is well worth study by our too ardent admirers of everything Japanese.

THE APRIL REVIEWS.

Radical policy in South Africa is discussed and criticised in the reviews by unusually competent writers this month—Lord Milner and Mr. Alfred Lyttelton in the "National", Sir William des Vœux and Sir Herbert Maxwell in the "Nineteenth Century", Sir Kinloch Cooke in the "Empire" and Mr. Saxon Mills in the "Fortnightly". Whilst Sir Herbert Maxwell urges the Government not to strain the loyalty of British South Africans too far, Sir Kinloch Cooke is of opinion that by the attack on Lord Milner "a blow has been struck at the public service from which it will take considerable time to recover". Lord Milner is commendably moderate in his statesmanlike account of the position in South Africa with which the Government have to deal. He insists that while treating the Dutch with perfect fairness everything possible must be done to strengthen and hearten the British element and envelop South Africa in a British atmosphere. He repudiates the idea of any British section adopting the attitude of an "ascendency party", but in order to retain South Africa, it is essential that we retain the affection of the South African British. His defence of the mining interests is convincing. The capitalists did not make the war. "I simply state what I know when I say that the movement which precipitated it, the revolt against Krugerism, was in its origin a popular, a spontaneous and let me add an inevitable movement." As a fact, Lord Milner says, the capitalists were dragged along by the popular movement. Except on purely political grounds they had no reason to interfere. "For the money-maker pure and simple, there never was such a paradise as the Transvaal under President Kruger", the aim of the Boer Government being to avoid risking the "independence" of the country by coming

under the control of the mining magnates. Mr. Lyttelton's article like Lord Milner's should be a warning to Lord Elgin and the Government to be sure that they know the conditions in South Africa before they take steps that may prove irrevocable and wholly disastrous. With regard to the right of veto after self-government has been granted the ex-Colonial Secretary makes a new and striking point. Is it conceivable that the veto of the Chinese ordinance could be defended or tolerated while similar legislation remains untouched upon the statute books of other colonies?

Once more the tide of what is called Teutophobia is in full flood in otherwise sober pages. In the "Fortnightly" Perseus traces German opposition to France at Algieras to the French bankers' refusal to finance the Bagdad railway. French policy was steadily directed to rendering impossible the expansion of Germany across Europe and into Asia Minor, and France had to run the gauntlet in Morocco in consequence. The settlement arrived at, Perseus regards as so many "little pieces of sticking plaster applied to the body of a patient suffering from an organic disease". Sir Edward Grey's task he says is to restore the European equilibrium by promoting a compact with France and Russia which will be "a counterpoise massive enough to relieve the cause of European peace from its present entire dependence upon the Kaiser's personal will". The ambition of Germany—encouraged by her rapidly increasing population—takes various forms. Reviewers are agreed as to the ambition; the direction in which it will assert itself is suggested by their own prejudices. Dr. Dillon in the "Contemporary" foresees the Germanisation of Europe and a sinister policy in Africa and the East which will some day involve a Moslem revolt when Germany's opponents are engaged in a life struggle with a great Power. "What friends of Germany among us deeply regret is that none of her tortuous methods of mediæval diplomacy, which democratic Europe is now getting to execrate, appear to have been modified by even a flitting care for the claims of justice or the interests of humanity. Where the national interest of a strong military Power is everything, peace is but the name of a state for which there can be no stable basis and no trustworthy safeguard. Where *Deutschland über Alles* is the device, what becomes of Europe?" Mr. J. Ellis Barker in the "Nineteenth Century" is equally scaring—if, that is, we choose to take his account of German designs as based upon anything more substantial than his own imagination. He says that Germany is preparing herself with feverish haste for a naval war with Great Britain and predicts that having become the greatest Continental Power she will then, perhaps, become the greatest world Power, having accomplished the downfall of the British Empire. Mr. Barker writes in this strain:—"The fruitfulness, self-confidence, vigour, push, and prosperity of the German race, coupled with the fact that the formerly so manly British race is, owing to the blessings of Free Trade, rapidly being converted into a puny, sickly, ill-nourished, sterile, incapable, and unhappy slum proletariat, has suggested to Germany the most natural and the most desirable solution for her greatest problem." Mr. H. W. Wilson in the "National" talks of Germany's hunger for Moroccan coal-mining stations. He does not find her desire monstrous or unjust—this in the pages of the "National"—but he says Germany is too strong as she exists to-day. Proceeding to show what her designs are in Europe and what the German occupation of a Moroccan port would mean to commerce and naval strategy, he concludes that the British Ministry is living in the clouds so far as Imperial defence is concerned. Algieras has incidentally illustrated the danger of England's military weakness in Mr. Wilson's view. Whatever we may think of the fairness and wisdom of these attacks on Germany, the necessity for an efficient and sufficient army and navy is emphasised by the survey of possibilities though not probabilities. They lend special force to Sir Robert Giffen's note on national service in the "Nineteenth Century". Sir Robert advocates compulsory universal military training, but will not allow it to be called conscription. It is, at any rate, to the good when Liberals like Sir Robert Giffen begin to detect the danger of the laissez-faire system by which they have sworn for so long.

Two personal articles in the "Monthly Review" are perhaps the most attractive in a good number—one on Mr. John Morley by Mr. Algernon Cecil, the other on Coventry Patmore by Mr. Arthur Symonds, who gives some most interesting and hitherto unpublished letters by Patmore. Mr. Cecil regards Mr. Morley as embodying more fully than any living man a school of thought which is fast dying out. When Mr. Morley talks of the deluge which rained away the Corn Laws Mr. Cecil reminds him that there may come a frost which will freeze out Free Trade. Generally he finds in Mr. Morley the charm of a "strange uncommon blend of democratic opinion and aristocratic sentiment, of religious doubt and dogmatic assertion, of dislike of the world with shrewd observation of its habits". In "Blackwood's" the author of "Musings without Method" has a vigorous denunciation of modern manners or lack of manners, and the shams and pretence with which he associates the names of Dr. Reich, Miss Marie Corelli and Mr. Andrew Carnegie. The Canterbury opponents at the General Election are both contributors to the April reviews: Mr. Henniker

Heaton in the "Nineteenth Century" with a vigorous plea for the abolition of political patronage, and Mr. W. J. Fisher in the "Independent" with a complaint of electoral abuses which he desires, like a good many more—and particularly the unsuccessful candidates—to see remedied. Mr. Heaton, regarding the pressure brought to bear by the postmen recently on members of Parliament as a scandal, suggests the creation of a Public Service Board on Australian lines to deal with Civil Servants' grievances. Mr. Fisher gives a long list of the means resorted to to win elections, and suggests various comprehensive amendments to the Corrupt Practices Act which would purify, simplify and cheapen an electoral campaign. In the "Fortnightly" Mr. Roger Pocock describes picturesquely the legion of frontiersmen which is to be a new sort of Guides Corps in every part of the Empire and Mr. Henry Norman, the Chairman of the Royal Commission, writes suggestively on the Public and the Motorist. Mr. Norman has not read his proofs very carefully. There are several slips in his article, and in one sentence he talks of distinguishing "sharply between inevitable and unavoidable discomforts".

FRENCH REVIEWS OF ARCHÆOLOGY AND ART.

"Journal des Savants." Mars. Paris: Hachette. 3 fr.

M. Maxime Collignon's "La sculpture attique avant Phidias" is a first article devoted to M. Henri Lechat's "Au Musée de l'Acropole", and "La sculpture attique avant Phidias"—two of the very best books ever published on Greek sculpture. M. P. Appell's "La vie et l'œuvre de Jacobi" pays a well-deserved tribute of admiration to one of the greatest mathematicians of last century. "Une prétendue source de Tacite: l'empereur Nerva", by M. P. Fabia, is a rather dull criticism on M. Attilio Profumo's still more dull "Le fonti ed i tempi dello incendio Neroniano": the solution of the question whether Nero played a part or not in the conflagration of Rome remains as remote as ever. The wonderful merits of the great German geographer Bernard Varen (1622—circa 1650) are put in full light by M. L. Gallois' interesting "La Géographie générale de Varenus".

"Revue Archéologique." Novembre-Décembre, Janvier-Février. Paris: Leroux. 3 fr. each number.

The November-December number contains the conclusion of Mdlle. Louise Pillon's charming and very clever study on "Les soubassements du Portail des Libraires à la cathédrale de Rouen", and M. J. J. Marquet de Vasselot's last article on

(Continued on page 436.)

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"Les émaux limousins à fond vermiculé (XII^e et XIII^e siècles)". In "Le sceau de Sveder de Apecoude" M. J. Six gives us a curious instance of an antique engraved gem (Leda and the Swan) used as the central part of a seal appended to deeds of 1332 and 1333 at the Utrecht archives. M. S. Chabert continues in the same interesting and scholarly way as before his most useful "Histoire sommaire des Etudes d'Epigraphie grecque en Europe". Last and not least comes M. M. R. Cagnat and M. Besnier's "Revue des publications épigraphiques relatives à l'antiquité romaine".

In Miss Gertrude Lowthian's "Notes of a Journey through Cilicia and Lycaonia" (in English), which opens the first number for this year, the illustrations alone are of some interest. "La collection Campana et les musées de province" by M. Maurice Besnier is an interesting sequel to M. Salomon Reinach's excellent history of the celebrated collection, and helps us to follow through the provincial museums many of the monuments which did not find their place at the Louvre. M. Aug. Baillet's "Les vases 'Oucheb' et 'Sochen'" is a capital, unfortunately too short, contribution to our knowledge of the vases in use in ancient Egypt. Very good also, and most interesting is M. Marcel Reymond's "Une façade de Giuliano da San Gallo pour la basilique de San Lorenzo". In "L'hermès d'Alexandre, dit Hermès Azara", M. Etienne Michon vindicates the genuineness of the inscription on the celebrated, but much overdone and very much restored, likeness at the Louvre of the great Macedonian Conqueror. The "Note sur une tête grecque archaïque", by M. Salomon Reinach, ought never to have appeared in a scientific magazine like the "Revue Archéologique": the monument looks, to say the least, most highly suspicious.

"L'Art et les Artistes." Mars. Paris: 173 Boulevard S. Germain. 1.50 fr.

M. Henri Bouchot having failed in his attempt towards enlisting the brothers Van Eyck, under the name of Cône, among his own private French primitives, is naturally very much incensed against them for their impertinence in insisting on remaining Flemish. By way of retaliation, he is prepared now to throw doubt as to the illustrious pair having had anything to do with scarcely any of the most glorious masterpieces which go under their names. Happily, the excellent illustrations of "L'exposition des Van Eyck à Gand en 1906" atone to a certain extent for the untenable paradoxes in the text. M. Pierre de Nolhac studies "Les Portraits de la Pompadour" by Boucher, Van Loo, La Tour and Guérin. The article is charming, but the illustrations standing as they do in close vicinity with those of the preceding and of the following article, go far towards showing in a graphic way how fictitious the present hobby for eighteenth-century French pictures really is: between Hubert and John Van Eyck, and Goya, Madame de Pompadour's painters simply vanish into nothingness, as Bernini's puppets would near the Parthenon sculptures.

"Gazette des Beaux-Arts." Mars. Paris: 8 Rue Favart. 7.50 fr.

M. Henry Lemonnier's "Jean Goujon et la salle des Cariatides au Louvre" is a very interesting contribution to the history of the sixteenth-century Louvre. The sources from which Jean Goujon drew his inspiration of the celebrated Cariatids are cleverly and carefully investigated. In "L'Architecture dans les œuvres de Memlinc et de Jean Fouquet" M. H. A. Vasnier shows that whilst in most of the primitives the buildings represented are purely imaginary and fanciful, Memlinc's as well as Fouquet's paintings disclose a thorough knowledge of architecture, and "la volonté de reproduire d'une façon absolument fidèle et exacte, au point de vue de la construction, les monuments qu'ils représentent". The author very properly suggests that this peculiarity may serve as a criterion for identifying the genuine works of the two great masters. M. Gaston Migeon's "Notes d'Archéologie musulmane" is an original and most interesting commentary on some not yet described Oriental monuments of the twelfth, thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. The engraving illustrating M. Paul Durrieu's "Le Portrait du Grand Bâtard du Bourgogne" is as unsatisfactory as the text itself. All the exquisite charm of this marvellous portrait, one of the glories of the Musée Condé at Chantilly, have disappeared under M. Burney's dry and lifeless burin. M. Louis Bâtiffol gives us his second and concluding article on "Marie de Médicis et les Arts". The Queen's views on art seem to have been rather "terre-à-terre".

"La Revue de l'Art Ancien et Moderne." Mars. Paris: 28 Rue du Mont-Thabor. 7.50 fr.

"La Jeunesse d'Henner" (I) by M. S. Rocheblave promises to be one of the best biographies of the great French painter yet published. The illustrations are very beautiful. M. E. Babelon's first article on "Les Nouvelles Découvertes en Susiane" is conspicuous for the confusion and chronological inaccuracy of its historical introduction. We hope the description of the monuments will be better. "Le Nouvel Hoppner

du Louvre", if by Hoppner, is a very poor work of the painter. M. Louis de Fourcaud concludes his excellent study on "Franz von Lenbach". M. Henri Bouchot's "Fragonard et l'architecte Pâris, à propos de l'Exposition rétrospective de Besançon", gives us some hints on the future exhibition of fourteenth to nineteenth century works of art to be opened at Besançon in July next. The history of the early eighteenth-century bronze reliefs adorning the smaller altars in the Royal Chapel at Versailles forms the subject of an interesting article by M. L. Deshairs. "Notes et documents sur quelques Vierges du XIV^e siècle, à propos d'une Vierge de Saint-Germain en Laye", by Count Lefebvre des Noëttes, is a good contribution to the history of early French sculpture.

"Art et Décoration." Mars. Paris: Librairie Centrale des Beaux Arts. 2 fr.

This is a delightful number full of exceptionally fine illustrations, several of them in colour. The extra plate, a facsimile of a study by J. P. Laurens for his "Récits des Temps Mérovingiens" is one of the most wonderful specimens we have seen of the art of printing in colour; the picture itself is superb, and M. Camille Maclair's commentary on the artist's works if somewhat declamatory, puts in full light his high merits as a powerful painter of history. The number opens with an interesting article by M. P. Verneuil on "Maurice Dufrené, décorateur", and closes with a notice by M. Jean Gaudin on "L'Ecole d'Art de Birmingham" showing "ce que peut, sans ressusciter les corporations, une intelligente et pratique organisation de l'enseignement artistique dans une grande ville industrielle".

"Les Arts." Mars. Paris: 24 Boulevard des Italiens. 2 fr.

Perhaps the finest and most complete collection of clocks and watches in existence forms the subject of M. Gaston Migeon's excellent and most beautifully illustrated "La Collection de M. Paul Garnier.—I. L'Horlogerie et les Montres". In "Tableaux de W. Turner récemment retrouvés", M. Alexander J. Finberg gives us the sad history of the twenty-one pictures by the greatest of all English masters, lately saved from neglect and oblivion, and exhibited since February last at the Tate Gallery; eleven of the pictures are reproduced here. M. Joseph Guibert's "L'Hôtel Crillon, Place Louis XV.", is an interesting monograph of a fine specimen of eighteenth-century decorative architecture.

For this Week's Books see page 438.

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THE fourth ordinary general meeting of the Great Boulder Perseverance Gold Mining Company, Limited, was held at Salisbury House on Wednesday, Sir West Ridgway presiding.

The Secretary having read the usual notice,

The Chairman said that the profit for the year ended December 31 last was £142,152, which was increased by the balance brought forward to £185,857. The amount distributed in dividends for the year, including the final dividend of 1s. a share paid last month, was £139,973, representing 2s. per share, or 10 per cent., for the year. He emphasised the fact that the large sum of £48,256 expended on the year's development work had all been debited to revenue. This had been a somewhat unselfish course on the part of the directors, because if the amount had been charged to capital the profits would have been proportionately increased, and the board would have divided among themselves £5,000, instead of only £242, as extra remuneration under the articles of association. An item of £44,438 figured in the balance-sheet as loan and interest due by Mr. Gardner (the late Chairman of the Company). Under their agreement with Mr. Gardner 15 per cent. of the loan and interest became payable on October 12 last. Prior to that date notice was formally given to him of the instalment falling due. No reply was received, and the amount had not been paid. Legal proceedings were therefore taken against Mr. Gardner, and they were now pending. The litigation between the Company and the firm of Messrs. Bewick, Moring & Co., which was pending at the time of the last meeting, had been settled on a basis which the directors considered quite satisfactory to this Company. Last year he dealt fully with the development which had taken place on each of the lodes in their mine, and since then their colleague, Mr. Hooper, had inspected it, and had made a very full report upon the property—a report which he (the speaker) regarded as very satisfactory. With respect to the future, the shareholders would, of course, realise that the mine was a low-grade "proposition," and as such he saw no reason why it should not continue to be a regular dividend-paying concern for many years. Even if no richer ore were developed to increase the average grade of the mine, he confidently hoped that the present rate of dividend—10 per cent.—would be maintained; but development work was being vigorously carried on, and there was every possibility that good strikes would be made in the future, such as that to which he referred at the last meeting—the rich strike on the Perseverance lode at the 1,100-foot level. A considerable quantity of high-grade ore had been extracted from that place, and there seemed to be a considerable quantity still remaining. They also hoped that the East Boundary lode would disclose a large body of payable ore. Mr. Edward Hooper afterwards addressed the meeting, and referred to the thorough examination made by him of the Company's property last October. Having alluded to the ore reserves at various points on the property, he stated that their total working costs last year, not including development, worked out at just under 24s. per ton of ore mined and treated. This was a considerable reduction as compared with the figures of the previous year, and it was confidently believed that the item would be further reduced to 24s. a ton. During last February the average gold contents of the residues amounted to only 2½ grains of gold per ton, as compared with 30 grains during 1905, and 6½ grains during 1904. Mr. Klug informed them that for the last week of February the assay value of the residues was further reduced to 17½ grains. This was almost extracting every bit of gold. With reference to the future it was dangerous to prophesy, but he might say that, on the basis of 16,000 tons monthly, after allowing 4s. per ton for development, there was a net profit in sight of about £275,000, exclusive of any of the probable ore.

The adoption of the report was seconded by Sir Christopher Furness, M.P., and the motion was carried unanimously. The proceedings terminated with references to the Chairman's important mission to South Africa and the usual votes of thanks.

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE LIFE.

THE forty-third ordinary general meeting of the London and Lancashire Life Assurance Company was held on Thursday, at the offices, 65 and 67 Cornhill, E.C., Colonel Sir Nigel Kingscote, G.C.V.O., K.C.B. (chairman of the Company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. G. W. Mannering) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that before touching upon the various leading points of the report he felt it to be his first duty to refer to the absence of one who, on these occasions, took part in the proceedings, the late Mr. Samuel Gurney Sheppard, who was highly esteemed by everyone, and who was connected as a director with this Company for the long period of thirty-three years, and for many years acted as deputy-chairman. To succeed him as deputy-chairman the board elected Mr. Vesey G. M. Holt, a name well and favourably known in the City, and who has been a director for many years. The board have filled up the vacancy by the appointment of Mr. Clirehugh (the general manager and founder of the Company), who will continue for the present to act as general manager with a seat on the board. I come now to deal with the usual points of the report on which I have been in the habit of making a few remarks. First of all, as regards the new assurances for the past year. The proposals submitted were 2,832 for over £937,000, and of these there were completed 2,564 policies for £750,000, yielding a new premium income of nearly £33,000. These figures show an increase over the previous year of £54,000 in sums assured and £1,830 in new premiums. You will agree with me that this is a satisfactory result to have attained, and doubtless the improvement for some months past in the general business of the country may have had something to do with it. Whether that be so or not, I am sure it reflects great credit on the representatives of the Company, and indicates on their part a great amount of zeal and perseverance. The total premium income has now reached the amount of nearly £303,000, after deduction of re-assurance premiums, and the increase over the previous year—amounting to over £9,000—is considered a very satisfactory feature. The total income of the Company, including interests and dividends, amounted to about £382,000. So far I have dealt with the new business and premium income, and I now will make a few remarks in regard to the claims by death during the past year. They amount, with bonus additions, to over £145,000, and, although in excess of the amount of the year before by something like £20,000, are, nevertheless, within the expectancy by nearly £12,000. I have pointed out on former occasions that as the Company advances in age the claims are bound to increase. What we have, therefore, to ascertain is whether they are within the expectancy. Although I have said the amount under the policies which have become claims shows an increase as compared with the previous year, the actual number of deaths, I am informed, is 23 per cent. less than expected, showing clearly that the mortality has arisen under some of the heavier policies. It is interesting, also, to note that the average age at death during the past year was 55, against 51 of the previous year, and that out of the deaths during the past year 27 per cent. were between 65 and 70 years of age and 20 per cent. over 70. These facts show that the amount paid cannot be regarded entirely as a loss to the company or as undue strain on its funds. On the contrary, under the older policies there is a great relief to the liabilities, which tells, of course, favourably in a valuation. I may add that the average age of all the existing lives on the books of the Company is only 42 years, showing that, although the Company has been established for nearly forty-four years, the lives are still young. I now come to deal with the funds of the Company, which, after the additions of the past year, amounting to £117,000, now stand at £2,118,000 in round figures. It is shown clearly in the balance-sheet how this large amount has been invested, the average rate yielded on invested and uninvested funds being £3 18s. 3d. per cent.—very similar to the previous year—although on the actual amount invested it comes out at £4 2s. 10d. per cent. As regards the question of expenses of management, which come out at very much the same as the year before, we are aware of the importance of this point, and it has, I know, the closest scrutiny on the part of the management. I am bound, however, to say the increased competition nowadays existing is very great, and renders the acquisition of new business at a moderate cost more difficult than ever. In conclusion, I have only to express a hope that all those connected with the Company will continue to co-operate with us in increasing its business, and I know that, not only at home, but our friends in Canada, as well as in India—in both of which countries considerably more business has been done—take a very great interest in the continued progress and prosperity of the Company. I am sure we are very much indebted to all for their cordial co-operation in enabling us to attain the figures which I have submitted to you to-day, and I trust that the steps which the board have lately taken with a view of increasing the home business may show satisfactory results in the future. I beg to move: "That the report of the directors, together with the statement of accounts and the revenue account and balance-sheet and the auditors' certificate, be received, adopted, and entered on the minutes."

Mr. Vesey G. M. Holt (deputy-chairman), in seconding the motion, said, as he had always taken a great interest in the investments of the Company, he would like to congratulate the shareholders on what he believed to be the satisfactory position of the Company in that respect. As the proprietors would have learned from the report, the average yield on the invested and uninvested funds of the Company was £3 18s. 3d. per cent., which might in these days be considered very satisfactory, looking to the sound nature of the investments they held. With regard to the question of expenditure, which was always an important one, and one which the directors always kept steadily in view, it must be borne in mind that they did a very considerable business in Canada, and in order to get this they had to keep abreast of the times and up to date in all their arrangements, involving expenditure, which, however, was closely watched by their friends in Canada as well as themselves. They had, however, the advantage of a higher rate of interest on their investments in the Dominion. Thanks, however, to their highly representative board and to their manager, they were doing a very large business in Canada, and, notwithstanding the keen competition of native companies, they hoped to obtain a large share of the increased business which could not fail to result from the improvement in trade now so general throughout the Dominion. They had also recently taken steps to increase their home business and were very sanguine that these would result in a considerable accession during the current year.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman moved: "That the appointment of Mr. W. P. Clirehugh as a director of the Company, while retaining his position as general manager of the Company, and enjoying the emoluments of that office, be, and the same is, hereby confirmed." Mr. Clirehugh, who founded the Company, had been connected with the undertaking for forty-four years, during the whole of which period he had never missed the annual general meeting.

Mr. Vesey G. M. Holt seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

CORPORATION OF LONDON £3 PER CENT. DEBENTURE STOCK, 1927-1957.

Interest payable half yearly, on the 1st March and the 1st September, at the Bank of England.

ISSUE OF £1,250,000 STOCK.

Being a further sum issued on the Security of the Trust Deed, dated the 24th June, 1897, constituting and securing Debenture Stock to a total amount of £4,400,000, together with Interest thereon at the rate of Two and a Half per Cent. per annum, supplemented by a further Trust Deed, dated the 1st June, 1905, securing the balance of Interest on the present Issue.

Price of Issue Fixed by the Corporation at £93 per Cent.

The first Dividend, being a full Six Months' Interest, will be payable 1st September, 1906.

By a rule of the Supreme Court, this Stock has been included in the list of Securities in which cash under the control or subject to the Order of the Court may be invested, and Trustees are therefore authorised by the Trustee Act, 1893, to invest therein unless expressly forbidden by the instrument creating the Trust.

Trustees for Debenture Stockholders:

The RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MAYOR,
THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, for the time being,
THE CHAMBERLAIN OF LONDON,

The GOVERNOR and COMPANY of the BANK OF ENGLAND give notice that, by arrangements made with the Corporation of London, they are authorised to receive applications for £1,250,000 of CORPORATION OF LONDON £3 per cent. DEBENTURE STOCK, 1927-1957.

The Stock is secured by, and is to be held subject to the conditions of, a Trust Deed dated the 24th June, 1897 (a copy of which can be inspected at the Office of the City Solicitor, Guildhall, London), charging all the rents and income derived from the freehold and leasehold estates, and all the tolls, dues, stallages, rents, and revenues of or to which the Corporation now are or at any time thereafter shall become entitled otherwise than as Trustees or Mortgagees. For further securing and providing for the redemption of the Stock, the Corporation have covenanted to set aside £15,000 per annum out of their annual income, after providing for the annual interest on the Stock, and to invest and accumulate such annual sums and the income thereon.

The Stock now issued is in addition to the £1,542,000 Two and a half per cent. Debenture Stock already issued on the security of the above-mentioned Trust Deed. A Supplemental Trust Deed, dated the 1st June, 1905 (a copy of which can be inspected at the office of the City Solicitor, Guildhall, London), has been executed constituting a subsequent charge upon the several properties, revenues, &c., specified above for the purpose of securing the extra one-half per cent. interest which is to be paid upon the Stock now issued. In all other respects as regards the Security for both capital and interest the two issues will rank *pari passu*.

The Stock, if not previously redeemed, will be redeemed at par on the 1st July, 1957, but the Corporation reserve to themselves the right to redeem the Stock at par on the 1st July, 1927, provided that not less than six calendar months' notice of their intention shall have been previously given.

The proceeds of this Issue will be applied to the repayment of existing temporary advances, and Bonds falling due.

The Books of the Corporation of London £3 per Cent. Debenture Stock, 1927-1957, will be kept at the Bank of England, where all Assignments and Transfers will be made. Stock Certificates to bearer of the denominations of £1,000, £500, and £100, with Coupons for half-yearly dividends attached, will be obtainable in due course in exchange for inscribed Stock, at the same rate of charge as in the case of Government Stock; and holders will be able at any time to re-inscribe such Certificates on payment of the usual fee.

Transfers and Stock Certificates will be free of Stamp Duty.

Dividends will be paid half-yearly at the Bank of England on the 1st March and the 1st September, Interest Warrants being transmitted by post unless otherwise desired.

A full six months' dividend on the total nominal amount of the Stock will be payable on the 1st September, 1906.

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent., will be received at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, E.C. In case of partial allotment the balance of the amount paid as deposit will be applied towards the payment of the first instalment. Should there be a surplus after making that payment, such surplus will be refunded by cheque.

Applications, which may be for the whole or part of the issue, must be for multiples of £100, and no allotment will be made of a less amount than £100 Stock; but the Stock once inscribed will be transferable in any sums which are multiples of a penny, as in Consols.

The dates at which the further payments on account of the Stock will be required are as follows:

On Tuesday, the 24th April, 1906, £28 per cent.;
On Tuesday, the 22nd May, 1906, £30 per cent.;
On Monday, the 25th June, 1906, £30 per cent.;

but the instalments may be paid in full, on and after the 24th April, under discount at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum. In case of default in the payment of any instalment at its proper date, the deposit and instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Scrip Certificate to bearer will be issued in exchange for the provisional receipts. As soon as these Scrip Certificates to bearer have been paid in full, they can be inscribed (i.e., converted into Stock); or they can be exchanged for Stock Certificates to bearer, as soon as these can be prepared, without payment of any fee, provided such exchange be effected not later than the 1st August, 1906.

Applications must be on printed forms, which can be obtained at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England; at any of the Branches of the Bank of England; of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall & Co., 13 George Street, Mansion House, E.C.; or of the Chamberlain, Guildhall, E.C.

The List of Applications will be closed on, or before, Tuesday, the 10th April, 1906.
Bank of England, London: 5th April, 1906.

NOTICE.

The Terms of Subscription to the SATURDAY REVIEW are:—

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In the event of any difficulty being experienced in obtaining the SATURDAY REVIEW, the Publisher would be glad to be informed immediately.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (BERTAM) RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED, are issuing a prospectus which states among other things that the LIST is NOW OPEN, and will CLOSE on or before MONDAY, April 9, 1906, at four p.m.

The Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (BERTAM) RUBBER COMPANY, LTD.

CAPITAL £175,000

Divided into 175,000 Shares of £1 each.

There are NOW OFFERED for SUBSCRIPTION 150,000 SHARES of £1 EACH.

Of which 25,000 Shares are for the provision of working capital, payable as follows:—

5s. 6d. per share on application, £4. 6d. per share on allotment, 5s. per share one month after allotment, and 5s. per share two months after allotment.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. Sir J. WEST RIDGWAY, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I. (late Governor of Ceylon), 395 Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C.
JOHN EDWARD ARTHUR DICK-CLAUDER (Director, Anglo-Malay Rubber Company (Ltd.), 52 Gracechurch Street, E.C.
THOMAS RITCHIE, J.P. (Director, Fatialing Rubber Syndicate, Ltd.), Overstrand Lodge, Croner.
GEORGE SHORT BARWICK (Director, Daimler Motor Company (1904), Ltd.), Thimbleby Hall, Northallerton.
GEORGE MOUT DUNDAS-MOUT (Partner in William Dunman and Co.), Merchant, Singapore.

BANKERS.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND (Ltd.), Bishopsgate Street, E.C., and 95 and 97 Strand; and all Branches.
CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA, Hatton Court, Threadneedle Street, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP & CO., 17 Throgmorton Avenue, E.C.

AUDITORS.

TURQUAND, YOUNGS & CO., Chartered Accountants, 41 Coleman Street, E.C.

BROKERS.

J. G. BONE & SONS, 4 Cophall Court, E.C., and Stock Exchange, E.C.
JOHN GIBBS, SON & SMITH, 29 Cornhill, E.C., and Stock Exchange, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES (pro tem.).

H. READ SMITH, F.C.I.S., 16 St. Helen's Place, E.C.

THIS Company has been formed to acquire, develop, and work, or otherwise deal with, the extensive and valuable rubber plantation and other property known as, the Bertam Estate, situated in the Province of Wellesley, Straits Settlements, ten miles from the town of Butterworth, on the coast, opposite to and distant about two miles from the port of Penang, with which connection is made by steam launches plying every quarter of an hour.

The property is already a going concern, producing Para rubber in considerable quantities, and yielding a substantial revenue, even in its present state of partial development.

REPORT.—The estate, which has for the last year been under the charge of a competent manager (Mr. John Lamb), has been reported upon by Mr. Edmund B. Prior, manager of the Golden Hope Estate, Klang, Selangor, a well-known and experienced planter, upon whose opinions the directors place the utmost reliance.

In a letter dated 18th November, 1905, which accompanied the report, addressed to Mr. G. M. Dundas-Mout, Mr. Prior, in referring to his examination of the estate, writes:

"I have taken a lot of trouble, and after a thorough investigation I consider you have an option over a really valuable property even as it stands now. With development it is almost impossible to calculate what could be done with it. As far as rubber is concerned, you have nothing to fear, and I think after reading my report you yourself will see the reasons for this. . . . I must add that I consider John Lamb the very best man you could have for the job of opening. His methods are good. I have known him for many years, and he can control and manage Tamil, Malay, and Chinese labour in the very best way, particularly Malay, which is half the battle."

The following estimate of revenue is based on a cablegram from Mr. Prior, dated 10th March current, estimating the production of rubber and the revenue from other sources for the next 10 years:

	Production of Rubber.	Value of Rubber.	Other Sources (approximate).	Total Revenue.
	lbs.	£	£	£
1906	16,500	4,125	1,900	6,025
1907	25,000	6,250	1,900	8,150
1908	36,000	9,000	2,300	11,300
1909	50,000	12,500	2,300	14,800
1910	71,500	17,875	2,900	20,775
1911	145,000	36,250	2,900	39,150
1912	310,000	77,500	3,400	80,900
1913	525,000	131,250	3,400	134,650
1914	735,000	183,750	3,400	187,150
1915	885,000	221,250	3,500	224,750

showing an average revenue for the ten years of £72,735 per annum.

Mr. Prior's returns are based upon 100,000 additional rubber trees being planted in each of the years 1906, 1907, and 1908. It is, however, the intention of the directors to increase the area planted until the number of rubber trees reaches an eventual total of something like 750,000. Under these circumstances the revenue, as estimated above by Mr. Prior, should be largely increased during subsequent years.

The products of the estate, other than rubber, consist of coconuts (there being a plantation of about 40,000 trees), Sirih leaf, paddy (rice), &c., while there are also the rents of shop-houses, grazing rights, &c. With proper management and a little expenditure upon the estate, there is no doubt that the total income from these various sources other than rubber can be very largely increased, especially in the case of the coconut production, the cultivation of which Mr. Prior specially recommends. An asset of considerable importance is the large quantity of Tumbusu wood, a hard wood, most valuable for building purposes.

The property is already equipped with bungalow, office, and store, new rubber drying house, new rubber preparing house, new cocoa-nut shed, and accommodation for 150 labourers.

There is plenty of good labour, and the Tamil coolies like the place, the water being perfect and health uniformly good. The proximity to Penang and the ready communication with that port are matters of great importance.

The amount to be provided for working capital, £25,000, is considered ample, having regard to the ease with which the planting can be done and the abundance and cheapness of good labour.

A brokerage of 3d. per share will be paid by the Company on all shares applied for on forms bearing brokers' stamps.

Application for a special settlement and a quotation of the Company's shares on the Stock Exchange will be made in due course.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained from the bankers and brokers and at the offices of the company.

The Subscription List will be closed on or before Tuesday, 10th April, 1906.

CHILIAN GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. GOLD LOAN of 1906.

Issue of £3,700,000, = Marks 75,850,000, = Francs 93,055,000.

(Authorised by the Laws of 14th and 21st February, 1906, and by the Decree of 27th March, 1906.)

In Bonds to Bearer, in denominations of £500, £200, £100, and £50, or their equivalent in Marks or Francs at the exchanges of M. 20.50 and Frs. 25.15 per £ sterling respectively.

Interest at 4½ per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly on the 1st April and 1st October.

Principal redeemable by a Cumulative Sinking Fund of 2 per cent. per annum, to be applied to the purchase of Bonds in the market if the price be below par, otherwise in drawing Bonds at par in January and July in each year for payment on the following 1st April and 1st October respectively. The first redemption of Bonds is to take place on 1st October, 1906. The Chilean Government reserves to itself the right to increase the Sinking Fund, or to redeem the Loan, on or after 1st April, 1911, on giving three months' previous notice.

Interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum will accrue from the dates of the instalments, and a Coupon payable on 1st October, 1906, for £1 14s. 10d. per Bond of £100, being the amount of such interest, will be attached to the Provisional Scrip Certificates.

Messrs. SPEYER BROTHERS and the DEUTSCHE BANK (Berlin), London Agency, will receive Subscriptions for the above Bonds at the price of 94½ per cent., payable as follows:—

£5 0 0 per cent. on Application,
£25 0 0 Allotment,
£30 0 0 8th May, 1906,
£34 10 0 8th June, 1906.
£94 10 0

Payment in full may be made on Allotment, or on 8th May, 1906, under discount at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

Applications for these Bonds will also be simultaneously received—

In Berlin, by the DEUTSCHE BANK.

In Frankfurt-on-Main, by the Agency of the DEUTSCHE BANK, and by Mr. LAZARD SPEYER-ELLISSEN.

In Amsterdam, by Messrs. TEIXEIRA DE MATTOS BROTHERS, and the BANQUE DE PARIS et des Pays Bas, Succursale d'Amsterdam.

And also in various other Cities in Germany.

The President of the Republic of Chili has been empowered by the Laws of the 14th and 21st February, 1906, to contract this Loan. It is provided that the proceeds to the amount of £3,700,000 shall be devoted by the Government to the construction of a Railroad from Arica to Alto de la Paz, and the balance to providing water-works and sanitary works in various towns in Chili.

The payment of the Coupons and the redemption of the Bonds will take place free of all present or future Chilean taxes or imposts, at the option of the holders, either in London in sterling, or in Germany in Marks at the exchange of M. 20.50 per £ sterling.

Provisional Scrip Certificates to Bearer will be issued against Allotment Letters, and these Certificates will be exchanged for definitive Bonds, bearing interest from 1st October, 1906, as soon as the latter are ready.

Applications for a quotation for the Bonds on the Stock Exchanges of London, Berlin, Frankfurt-on-Main, and Amsterdam will be made in due course.

The failure to pay any instalment when due will render all previous payments liable to forfeiture. Where no allotment is made the deposit on application will be returned.

A translation of the above-mentioned Decree may be inspected at the Offices of Messrs. Bicham & Co., 50 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained from Messrs. SPEYER BROTHERS, 7 Lothbury, London, E.C., or from the DEUTSCHE BANK (Berlin), London Agency, 4 George Yard, Lombard Street, London, E.C. Application may also be made on the annexed form.

12 London, 5th April, 1906.

Chilian Government 4½ per Cent. Gold Loan of 1906.

ISSUE OF £3,700,000, = Marks 75,850,000, = Francs 93,055,000.

(Authorised by the Laws of 14th and 21st February, 1906, and by the Decree of 27th March, 1906.)

To Messrs. SPEYER BROTHERS, 7 Lothbury, London, E.C.,
And the DEUTSCHE BANK (BERLIN), London Agency, George Yard, London, E.C.

I/We request you to allot me/us £..... of the above Loan upon the terms of the Prospectus issued by you, dated 5th April, 1906.

I/We enclose £....., being a deposit of 5 per cent., and I/We engage to accept the above or any less amount you may allot to me/us, and to make the further payments thereon in accordance with the said Prospectus.

SIGNATURE.....
Name in full.....
(Add whether Mr., Mrs. or Miss, and Title, if any.)
Address.....

PLEASE WRITE.....
DISTINCTLY.

Date.....

Cheques to be made payable to "Bearer."

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